

La Palabra

November 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

1 Chronicles 16:34

It is November, which means we’re thinking about giving thanks, which means we’re also thinking about stewardship. Stewardship is about realizing how much God in Christ has done for us and making appropriate response with our time, treasure, and talent (all of which came from God to begin with!).

This is also a good time of year to think about planned giving, which is another way of being a faithful steward. Planned giving means remembering the church in your will to receive either a percentage or a fixed amount of your estate. This is, frankly, one of those times when I’d like you to do as I SAY, and not as I do! I’m still trying to carve out time to update our outdated, 29-year-old will. Please, don’t do that! If you don’t have a will, please create one. If you have one but it’s old, like mine, please update it. And, while you’re at it, please include FPC as a beneficiary as well.

In case you missed it, the Finance Committee is actively fundraising to replace the Sanctuary roof. A quick visual inspection makes the need apparent. Many shingles are cracked, missing or displaced. Thanks to the generosity of many, the Finance Committee has gathered approximately \$99,000 toward the \$250,000 project. Just the abatement of our asbestos shingles costs over \$50,000 alone! Yes, it is an expensive endeavor but just imagine the expense and heartache if the roof failed and we had a leak!

FPC Mesa has so much to be thankful for...

- ◆ We’ve just finished our first year of transition. Our Mission Study Team is hard at work. They are gathering data from first responders to the survey. You HAVE taken the survey, right? If not, please visit www.fpcmesa.org and click on the survey link or stop by the church office to pick up a hard copy. The MST is finalizing plans for Congregational Conversations where you will have an opportunity to give feedback to the team.
- ◆ FPC enjoys stable staffing. Director of Music Ministries Mark Ramsey, Office Manager Linda Reeves, Christian Director Jasmine Couillard, PreSchool Director Shiloh Murillo and Building Supervisor Don Krill have been instrumental during this time of transition. I have relied heavily on these trustworthy folks to help keep things moving. I’m very excited to have Youth Director Anita Ramsey joining the staff as well.
- ◆ We have strong leadership on Session. These Spirit filled, God fearing Elders are intent on discerning God’s will as we move forward in mission and ministry serving Christ.

This Stewardship season, please prayerfully consider an increase in your giving by one or two percent of your income, thus moving that much closer to being the tither God would have you be. Please complete and return the 2016 Pledge Card inserted in this newsletter. Dedication Sunday will be November 22nd.

If all of us can be faithful in this way, our church will continue doing good for God, blessing the many people we serve in Christ’s name in so many ways and we’ll be well poised for our new pastor.

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 2016, the First Players will present their 20th Annual Production! The Players have licensed with Music Theatre International to produce “Mary Poppins” on April 1,2,8,9. One of the most popular Disney movies of all time is capturing hearts in a whole new way: as a practically perfect musical! Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins delighted Broadway audiences for over 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven TONY Awards, including Best Musical. The First Players’ “Mary Poppins” cast auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 7th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For audition information, please contact Mark Ramsey, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Librettos and the Production Schedule are available on the Church Office counter.

We’ll reconvene our FPC Bike & Breakfast group on Saturday, November 7th! We should enjoy cooler weather and a family-friendly, canal-path ride of about 10 miles round-trip. We’ll meet at the church at 7:30 a.m., ride until we’ve worked off about half of the breakfast calories (or maybe 10%), then we’ll stop and eat and head back to the church. Our eatery will be the Broken Yolk Café (2034 E. Southern Ave., Mesa). RSVP to Mark at the church, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Be sure to air your tires, oil your gears, corral the kids, and join us on the 7th!

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd, will also be Christ the King/Stewardship Dedication Sunday. Between services, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, we will enjoy a Ministry Fair, where our Commissions, representing most of our church activities, will display their wares. To be certain that the Worship Arts display is just hopping with activity, be sure to drop by our table by for a delectable treat!

With much thanksgiving for our faithful choir members, there will be no mid-week choir rehearsals during Thanksgiving week. A very, very Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Next year's Sanctuary Choir retreat will be held in Sedona on February 12th-14th. Rehearsals will be held at Church of the Red Rocks. On February 14th, we will join with the CRR choir to present special music during morning worship. During the retreat, our choir will rehearse their Lenten & Easter music, including the Dubois Seven Last Words which will be presented during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday, March 20th, with Soloists, Organ, and Strings. They will also rehearse pit choir music for Mary Poppins and new music for the Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival on February 27th to be held this year at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Mesa. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, plan now to join us in Sedona! The setting is beautiful, and we’d love for you to be with us.

Coming Events

- ◆ November 14 (Saturday), FPC Craft Fair, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- ◆ December 12 (Saturday), FPC Preschool Parents Night Out (FPC Youth will be offering Childcare), 3:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- ◆ December 13 (Sunday, Artist Series Event, Arizona Cantilena Chorale performing the Bach Magnificat & Vivaldi Gloria, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary, Free Admission

Humoresque

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

Two 90-year-old women, Rose and Barb, had been friends all of their lives. When it was clear that Rose was dying, Barb visited her every day. One day Barb said, 'Rose, we both loved playing women's softball all our lives, and we played all through High School. Please do me one favor: when you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there.' Rose looked up at Barb from her deathbed and said, 'Barb, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you.' Shortly after that, Rose passed on. A few nights later, Barb was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, 'Barb, Barb.' 'Who is it?' asked Barb, sitting up suddenly. 'Who is it?' 'Barb -- it's me, Rose.' 'You're not Rose. Rose just died.' 'I'm telling you, it's me, Rose,' insisted the voice. 'Rose! Where are you?' 'In Heaven,' replied Rose. 'I have some really good news and a little bad news.' 'Tell me the good news first,' said Barb. 'The good news,' Rose said, 'is that there's softball in Heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before us are here, too. Better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always springtime, and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired.' 'That's fantastic,' said Barb. 'It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?' 'You're pitching Tuesday.' [from Dick Baird]

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

Join us for **Wednesday WRAP** from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall! The themes for this month are:

November 4 – Patriotic
November 11 – OFF for Veterans Day
November 18 – Crazy Hair
November 25 – OFF for Thanksgiving

The church nursery is in need of a permanent part-time staff person. The nursery needs to be staffed on Sunday mornings from 8:45 – 12:30, Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:00 and bi-monthly Thursday nights. The pay is \$8.50 per hour. The applicant needs to be over the age of 18 and pass a background check. Please contact Jasmine Couillard if you are interested in applying for this position.

We hope that you can find time to stop and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and share the time with your families. There are lots of things going on around the preschool right now. As you may recall, the outside playground bathrooms are in great need of repair! With the collaboration of the church, preschool and the Head Start program, we have just started the remodel work on those bathrooms. It may take a couple of weeks to be fully remodeled, but when they are done they will look beautiful! Stop by for a little visit when you have a chance.

Just in time for the holidays! We are ready to bring the church community an opportunity to once again purchase beautiful home decor, custom created by one of our parents here at the preschool. 50% of the purchase price goes directly back to the preschool to help us make purchases for the preschool children. All orders will be ready for pick up before Thanksgiving break.

Also, we will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving feast for the preschool families on Wednesday, November 25th, at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to donate holiday decorations, paper goods or snacks (cheese sticks, chicken nuggets, carrots, ranch dressing, cookies or juice boxes) for that day, we would greatly appreciate it. We seat all 30 children and their families, typically hosting about 75-80 people. Thank you for your generosity!

We are truly blessed to be a part of the FPC Mission here at the Preschool. Thank you for all of your support, love and prayers!

Shiloh Murillo, Director

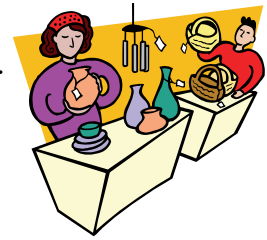


FELLOWSHIP

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



The 2015 Arts & Crafts Fair will be Saturday, November 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Don't miss it!



Presbyterian Woman — Bake Sale at the All-Church Craft Fair Saturday, November 14, 2015

We invite all women in PW as well as members of the church family to contribute HOME BAKED items to this sale. Bring your contribution to the kitchen between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Friday afternoon, November 13th, or bring it to the Craft Fair on Saturday morning.

YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES — Cookies, Brownies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Jams, Pickles, Candies

Proceeds will benefit PW mission projects. Cash donations will be gratefully accepted from members who are unable (or prefer not) to bake.

Circles meet:

- 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

The Next PW Coordinating Team meeting will be Tuesday, November 3rd, at 1:00 p.m. in the library.

So You Think You Can't dance

By Jack Oliver

I saw life as fruitless. It seemed like all we did was take one step forward and two back. And then I realized life was a dance. I relaxed and let God lead on. Then I found that it was not just one dance, but a whole repertoire. I wasn't making the same mistakes over again; He was teaching me a whole new dance. If I were going to dance with others, than I had to listen. I had to get up after a fall and try again. I had to erase from my mind all the bad dances I had observed throughout my life and trust that God was the creator of the dance. My steps were getting lighter, my movements smoother. I could not only hear the music, I could feel it. It amused me now to see others struggling with life's dances and I could be more tolerant, more patient. When my toes hurt from someone's misstep, I knew they were trying. I could sense more when I needed to stop dancing and rest. I understood the value of breathing and stretching, keeping my body and mind flexible, and more importantly, feeling God's presence within. The rhythm of God's Spirit flowing through me would keep me in step with His purpose for my life.

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

Mission Report

Thank you all who supported the Peace and Global Witness Offering. At the time of the printing of this newsletter the total contributed is \$1,240. The twenty-five percent that FPC got to designate for disbursement will go to the Florence Project. Your generosity makes a difference and reflects our church's commitment to reaching out beyond our doors to others.

Another thank you goes to all of you who supported the fall blood drive on October 18th. Nineteen people donated blood and 22 units of blood were collected. Lori Hillard from the American Red Cross said thank you for all that we do. The next blood drive will be April 17, 2016.

Mesa Make-a-Difference Day was held October 24th. Once again we had a team of people from FPC working in the community to make a difference. Thank you to all that helped to wax the sculptures in downtown Mesa.

Great news for Mesa Presbyterian Ministries! Jack Oliver will be joining the team of Bob Gerlach and Jane Potyka. Bob has led the ministries since its inception. Thank you Bob for all you have done and continue to do. We so appreciate you. Thank you to Jane for being his right hand, doing all the day to day work of the program. Jack has agreed to become part of the team and will be learning the ropes of the functioning of the program. Thank you, Jack.

Time is quickly approaching! Shoe boxes are here and will be available between services on November 2nd. Imagine the joy some girl or boy will feel when presented with a special box filled with goodies in the name Jesus Christ. Suggestions of items you might include are found on a pamphlet you will receive with your box or boxes. Please prayerfully consider helping us collect more boxes than last year. Our goal is 100.



We are asking that the boxes be returned to the church by November 15th. We hope you will enjoy filling the boxes as much as our small group does. If you have any questions, please contact the Oliver's, Hoff's, Jan Montgomery, Hildenbrand/Lanstra or Jeanne Partida. Thank you and God Bless.



If you haven't already, please complete your Church Survey! We need your feedback to help find our next pastor. Surveys are due November 28, 2015. To complete the survey online go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fpcmesa>. The link is also available on the church's website: <http://www.fpcmesa.org/>. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Kate Buck at k8buck@gmail.com or 480-845-2040.

November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Steve Muth	2nd
Jane Potyka	2nd
Scot Logan	3rd
Diane Schwartzmann	3rd
John Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
Charlene Raikes	7th
Heidi Blincoe	8th
Amanda Hoyman	11th
William Letizia	11th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Ann Hawkins	17th
Pam Kurtz	20th
Martha Bienert	21st
Jan Garpner	21st
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Mary Beth McMichael	23rd
Gail Wylie	23rd
Lois Hildenbrand	26th
Flinn Lund	26th
Karyn Weaver	27th
Jade Fleener	29th
Bob Free	29th
Arlene Wagner	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 Thanksgiving!

Calendar Notes

November 7

FPC Bike & Breakfast
Mary Poppins Auditions

November 8

Sunday School Training

November 9 & 10

Circles meet

November 14

Craft Fair

November

Commissions & Session meet

November 22

Stewardship Sunday
Ministry Fair

November 26

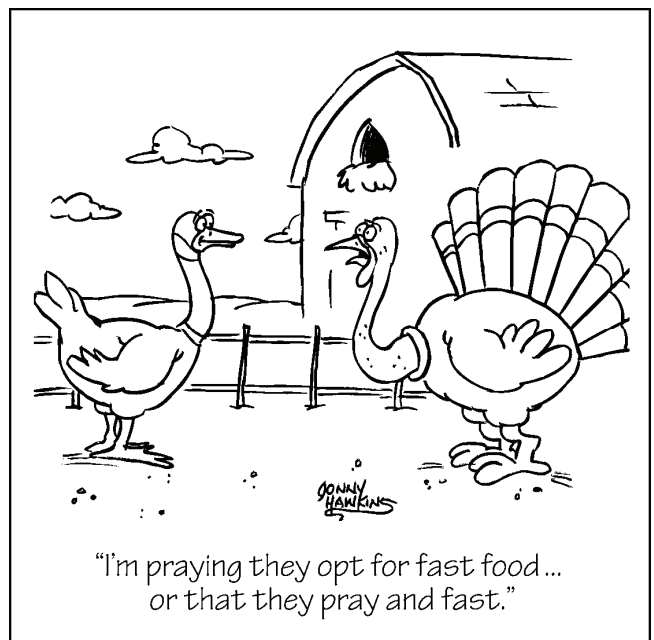
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27

Office Closed

November 29

Monthly Food Drive



First Presbyterian Church
2016 Pledge Card
Mesa, Arizona

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

In the coming year I/we pledge to move toward a tithe of treasure through:

\$ _____ General Fund pledge
Please circle one: yearly - monthly - weekly

\$ _____ Capital Fund
Please circle one: yearly - monthly - weekly

Signed _____

Print Name(s) _____

Phone _____

*Please bring this part with you to worship on Dedication Sunday, November 22, 2015
or mail to church office no later than that date.*

(Cut and save for your records)

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

First Presbyterian Church
2016 Pledge Card
Mesa, Arizona

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See calendar on website:

<http://www.fpcmesa.org/about-us/current-events>