

# La Palabra

October 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Lois*

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God...Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them [ungodly spirits]; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:2-4

Please stop right where you are, close your eyes and allow the essence of this passage sink into your spirit. We are God’s children and God’s Spirit is greater than anything we face and we gain confidence in knowing God will not only take care of us, but also the issues of life. This is a place of power and victory: it is not about us, but about the life-changing power of Jesus Christ that dwells within us. Through Jesus, we are more than conquerors. Let that not make us prideful or arrogant, but allow us to walk in humility as Children of God.

What an awesome thought to realize that for believers, greater is the Spirit of God that dwells within us than anything this world or Satan can throw at us. The challenge is to allow Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of our life.

All of us face problems and issues in life, but what a great place to know we are victorious. There is no need to worry or try to make things happen. We simply choose to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit; after all, Jesus died on the cross, not only that we might be Children of God, but that we relinquish control of our lives to the ever more capable hands of God.

As I think about who we are in Christ, my spirit jumps within me. Not because of me, but because the same Spirit of God that moved across the deep and took chaos and made it into something, is the very same Spirit that takes the chaos of my life and the lives of others and makes something according to God’s plan. Let us enjoy the victory gained for us in Jesus and share it with others!

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

The *Gracias Christmas Cantata* will be presented on Tuesday, October 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ikeda Theater at the Mesa Arts Center. The Cantata has been performed in such venues as the Sydney Opera House and Madison Square Garden, sharing the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of hope, love, and God's forgiveness. Free tickets are available here: <http://christmascantata.us/show/phoenix/> (Children under age 5 are prohibited.). Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early.

Auditions! In 2016, the First Players will present their 20th Annual Production! For the big anniversary, 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' 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 will be available Sunday, October 25th, on the Church Office counter.



Fall choirs are in full swing, and each of our groups is already preparing for “Stars of Glory,” this year's Music Sunday (December 20th), only two months away! If you are interested in our upcoming musical activities or would like to join one of our choirs, please take a moment to visit the online choir schedule at <http://www.fpcmesa.org/worship/choir-schedule>. The schedule even includes anthem audio links, so you can practice and sing-a-long on Sundays!



We'll reconvene our FPC Bike & Breakfast group on Saturday, November 7th! We should enjoy cooler weather and a family-friendly ride of about 10 miles round-trip. We'll meet at the church (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 the tires, oil the gears, corral the kids, and join us on the 7th!

### Coming Events

- October 10 FPC Road Rally, 4:00 p.m.
- October 24 Mesa Make a Difference Day (8:00 a.m. to noon)

## Humoresque

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

A Letter from an Irish Mother to her Son in New York: Dear Son, just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. We are all doing very well. You won't recognize the house when you get home - we have moved. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles from your home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last Irish family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address. This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well though: last week I put a load in and pulled the chain and haven't seen them since. Your father's got a really good job now. He's got 500 men under him. He's cutting the grass at the cemetery. Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out if it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know whether you are an auntie or an uncle. Your brother Tom is still in the army. He's only been there a short while and they've already made him a court martial! Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire. I'm sorry to say that your cousin Seamus was arrested while riding his bicycle last week. They are charging him with dope peddling. I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him. The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of the chickens laid the same egg four times. We had a letter from the under-taker. He said if the last payment on your Grandmother's plot wasn't paid in seven days, up she comes. About that coat you wanted me to send you, your Uncle Stanley said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets. John locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out. Three of your friends went off a bridge in a pick-up truck. Ralph was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down. There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened. Your loving Mum - P.S. I was going to send you some money but I had already sealed the envelope.

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## 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** is a program of Christian nurture for kindergarten through adult. Please join us in October for fellowship, music, dinner, Bible study and more. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Our themes for the month are:

October 7 – Mustache Night  
October 14 – OFF for Fall Break  
October 21 – Rainy Day  
October 28 – Great Pumpkin

**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.

(See Preschool Report on Page 5)

## 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

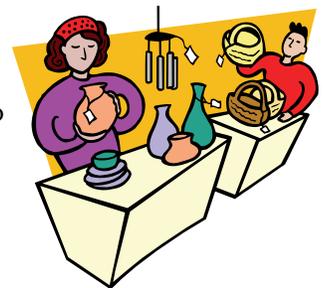
Parish Deacon 4 — Erin Skarphol  
Parish Deacon 5 — Heidi Blincoe  
Presbyterian Women — Susan McMichael



### *FPC Road Rally*

Saturday October 10, 2015  
**Departure:** 4:00 p.m. from Fellowship Hall  
**Arrival:** It's a Surprise!

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 WOMEN of the GRAND CANYON PRESBYTERY

The **FALL GATHERING** will be held at FPC Mesa on October 24th from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Rev. Martha Sadongei will be the keynote speaker and she will speak on “Mission Matters Because God’s People Matter.” **All women of the congregation are invited.**

- PWFPC is hosting this presbytery-wide gathering.
- A day of worship, workshops, Bible study, and inspiration.
- An opportunity to meet sisters in faith from around the presbytery.
- Registration: \$10 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch.
- Registration forms are available in PW Circles or in the church office. Deadline for registration, October 19th.

PW Coordinating Team will meet Tuesday, October 6th, 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

### Blood Drive

The Mission Commission of FPC will have a bloodmobile in the church parking lot from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18th. You may sign up to give blood four different ways:

1. Sign up directly online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: FirstPresbyterianMesa.
2. Sign up in fellowship hall beginning October 4th between services.
3. Call Darlene Sitzler at 480-833-5203.
4. Email Darlene at [djmamajoy@gmail.com](mailto:djmamajoy@gmail.com).



### Operation Christmas Child

Once again our small group is inviting anyone from the congregation that is interested in helping us in providing Christmas Shoeboxes to the needy children of the world. In 1993 Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse launched the Operation Christmas child program. Since then Samaritan's Purse has delivered shoe boxes to over 113 million children worldwide. In just the last four years, over 1.1 million children have prayed to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through Operations Christmas Child's follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey.



This is our 7th year collecting shoe boxes and we have set a goal of 100 boxes. Would you please help us reach that goal? We will have shoe boxes available sometime in late October, however, you can use a standard size shoe box. You have the choice of selecting a boy or girl in one of these three age categories: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Gift ideas are: toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy or lollipops (double bagged), socks, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights with extra batteries, t-shirts, caps, etc.

We are asking that the shoe box be returned to the church on or before November 15th as we need to deliver them to the collection point November 16th through 22nd. For more information you may contact Jack and Yvonne Oliver 654-6348 or Jeanne Partida 981-6149. Other members of the group are the Hoffs, Hildenbrand/Lanstra and Jan Montgomery.

What a wonderful feeling in the air! The temperatures are starting to drop and the kids are really enjoying the change. As we begin October, we are reminded that change is not a bad thing but a necessary part of God's plan for us. With excitement, we want to announce a couple of changes that are happening at our little school. First, we would like to welcome Ms. Nicki McInelly back from maternity leave. It is a truly welcome change because the children, families and all of us here have missed her! Second, we would like to welcome a new member of our staff. Her name is Ms. Heather Huish. She will be working in the afternoons with Ms. Kristy Biggs because our afternoon class has 12 kiddos! Heather is an animated and dynamic presence and will be a great addition to our team. Lastly, in the very near future, we will be starting an upgrading project in the Jackson Building outside bathrooms. With the help of Don Krill and the Headstart program, we are going to be replacing the countertops, partitions and painting. A great change indeed! It will be a huge relief when it is all completed. We want to thank them for helping to make this happen! Additionally, we want to send out our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the FPC Congregants for their generous contributions of school supplies that started our program off on the right path. We are so humbled and thankful for your generosity! The children are thoroughly enjoying them! Thank you!



In Christ's Care,  
Shiloh Murillo, Director

# October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Mary Beth Berry	3rd
Carter Buck	3rd
Antonio Rosario	4th
Irene Lenke	5th
Sandy Garpner	6th
June Gibbons	7th
Elinore Koch	7th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Sam Thielke	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Elizabeth Mathewson	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
Penelope Sitzler	16th
Fran Watson	16th
Brooklyn Bero	21st
Mary Jane Hee	21st
Dan Reeves	23rd
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katherine McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInelly	30th
Chuck Michel	30th

**Calendar Notes**

October 6  
Gracias Christmas Cantata

October 10  
FPC Road Rally

October 12 & 13  
Circles meet

October 18  
Blood Drive  
Commissions & Session meet

October 20  
Befrienders

October 24  
Mesa Make-a-Difference Day  
Presbyterian Women of Presbytery Gathering

October 25  
Monthly Food Drive

**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.



## IN MEMORIAM

Eleanor Daniels — August 29, 2015  
Nell Evans — August 29, 2015



See calendar on website:

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