

La Palabra — 2015 Annual Report Edition

February 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus...” 1 Corinthians 1:4

GOD IS GOOD!!! 2015 was a great year! You may read all about it in this, our Annual Report edition of La Palabra. Here you'll find reports of each commission's activities and the Mission Study Team.

God indeed blessed FPC in the last year. Despite being in transition, a vast majority of the congregation remained faithful in attendance and giving. Our average Sunday attendance in 2015 was 195, down only 23 people from 2014, which is less than the previous year. And financially, we finished 2015 in the black! Frankly, in terms of interim ministry, these numbers are unusual and GREAT!

So many of our blessings come from within the congregation. God blesses us with:

- **outstanding Music Ministry!** Thank you to every leader and participant in the vocal choir, bell choirs, signing choir, praise band, HolyGrounds praise band and children's choir.
- **wonderful worship!** Thank you to every greeter, usher, sanctuary cleaner, sound tech, decorator (whether brawn or brain), liturgist and their organizers. Thank you to all who participate in worship.
- **meaningful Christian Education!** Thank you to every Small Group, Nursery, VBS, Adult and Youth Sunday School, WRAP, PW Circle teacher, leader, cook, crafter and organizer.
- **a delightful church campus!** Thank you to Dave's crew and all those who have a hand in keeping our facility in good working order and visually appealing.
- **phenomenal Fellowship events!** Thank you to the many people who take the lead on our fellowship events, those who help, those who participate and especially, those who invite others to participate.
- **abundant mission opportunities!** Thank you to every office volunteer, I-Help worker, prayer chain prayer, MPM worker and donor, Befriender, Preschool Worker and Board Member, Food Pantry worker and donor and Feed My Starving Children food packer/labeler.
- **sufficient resources!** Thanks to all who give gifts and tithes to support God's work here at FPC and throughout Christendom and to those who help manage our finances. Thank you to all who serve on our local Session and Deacons and at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly and those who nominate them. Thank you Mission Study Team for working diligently to help in finding our next pastor.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 28th, starting at 5:00 p.m. with a Chili Cook-Off in Fellowship Hall. (Football season is well over so don't worry...no conflicts!)

Chili Cook Off Contestants: please bring a minimum of one gallon of chili. Chili must be home made, Texas style red chili or green chili—no canned chili, and either with or without meat. PRIZES will be awarded for best red and best green, and best vegetarian chili. PLEASE SIGN UP DURING COFFEE HOUR. The deadline for contest entrants will be Sunday, February 21st.

After all the chili fun, we'll stay in Fellowship Hall to convene our Annual Meeting and review reports from each Commission on all that they have accomplished this past year and we'll celebrate all that God is doing in our midst! **Please note: you may pick up a copy of the full 2015 financial report and the 2016 budget from the Kiosk.**

God is doing wonderful things in our midst—it's going to be another great year!

Blessings...Pastor Lois

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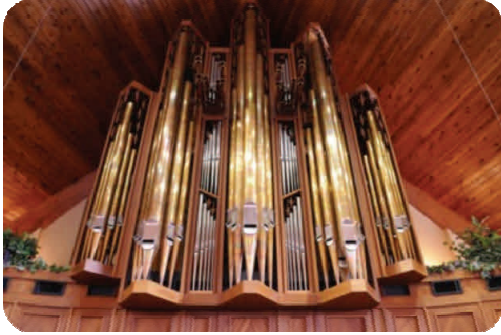
WORSHIP

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

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

Worship Commission: Staff Report

Submitted by: Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries



Each of our church choirs participated in our worship services at least once each month during the spring and fall. In addition, several events highlighted our year together in ministry:

- ◆ Pianist Sam Rotman leading Worship
- ◆ Weekly Preschool Chapels, with Pastor Lois and Shiloh
- ◆ Valley Chamber Chorale Concert "Music for Choir & Organ"
- ◆ All Choirs & Families, Catered Dinner Party
- ◆ Children's Sermon/Organ Demonstration
- ◆ Sanctuary Choir to La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church for

National Lutheran Choir Choral Festival

- ◆ High Priority Quartet in Worship
- ◆ Music for PW Luncheon, with Joan White
- ◆ First Players Dinner-Theater Production of Wind in the Willows
- ◆ Summer worship music led by organists and directors Barbara Cook, Jim Norris, Jan Peterson, Tricia Ramsey, and Karen Rudin. Special Music included the "Summer Choir," First Ringers, VBS Singers, Praise Band, Sunday of Soloists, One Voice, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and a Gospel Hymn Festival.
- ◆ Study Leave, West Region Convention of the American Guild of Organists, San Diego
- ◆ Thanksgiving/Stewardship Sunday combined worship, with Artist Series pianists Diane Baker & Eckart Sellheim offering music for piano four-hands. Worship was followed by a Ministry Fair and Sunday School.
- ◆ Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir Concert at Rockin' R Ranch, Mesa, as a part of a "Monday Night Food Truck + Round Up" series.
- ◆ Arizona Cantilena Chorale Concert
- ◆ All Choirs Music Sunday "Stars of Glory"
- ◆ Sanctuary Choir "Nutcracker Jingles"



We are blessed to have about a quarter of our congregation participating in our music program. I continue to be thankful for each singer, ringer, signer, and instrumentalist, and I pray that each is blessed by God's gift of music and joy in ministry. Special thanks go to our choir leaders: **SUNDAY SCHOOL/WEDNESDAY WRAP WORSHIP SKILLS**, Directors John Couillard, Karen Rudin, Rev. Paul Soderquist, and Karyn Weaver; Assistants Linda Hayball and Anita Ramsey; **FIRST RINGERS**, Bea Towe, Director; **HEARTS HANDS AND VOICES**, Karyn Weaver, Director; **ONE VOICE**, Anita Ramsey, Director; and **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, Bea Towe, Accompanist. Thank you also to our **PRAISE BANDS** for providing musical leadership for both worship services: Erin Skarphol, Karen Rudin, and Rev. Paul Soderquist (9:00 a.m.) and Kevin Reeves, Tricia Ramsey, Dan Sitzler, and Sean Snitzer (11:30).

COMING EVENTS

- ◆ 2/27 Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mesa, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2/28 Worship Leader Marcia Whitehead presenting "You Raise Me Up," 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ 3/6 "Worship in the Park," Pioneer Park, with Worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a BBQ
- ◆ 3/20 Palm Sunday, Dubois "Seven Last Words of Christ"
- ◆ First Players' 20th Annual Dinner-Theater Production, Mary Poppins, April 1,2,8,9
- ◆ Seder Service, Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School, June 13-16, 5:45-8:15 p.m.



Worship Commission Report



The Worship Commission serves our congregation through the planning of weekly worship services, by facilitating the church Prayer Chain, by celebrating with families as they welcomed new life, and by supporting families in times of grief. Items accomplished by the Worship Commission during 2015 include:

- ◆ Ash Wednesday Service, with Wednesday WRAP Children & Youth
- ◆ Worship at the Park, at Mesa Arts Center Alliance Pavilion, followed by a BBQ at FPC
- ◆ Maundy Thursday Seder Service
- ◆ Easter Sunrise Service on the Sanctuary Patio, followed by breakfast provided by the Scouts
- ◆ Combined Worship in Fellowship Hall during July
- ◆ Ice Cream Social and Praise

Band Concert

- ◆ Upgrade of Music Library, by Dave's Crew, Frank & Joan White, and Jan Peterson
- ◆ Karen Rudin's beautiful 50th Anniversary Poem was displayed in the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Candlelight Communion Services of Lessons, Readings & Carols
- ◆ Worship Endowment Funds were designated toward refurbishing our handbells and purchasing new Fellowship Hall stage drapes.
- ◆ Planned Eighth Annual off-campus service "Worship at Pioneer Park," to be held on March 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Immediately following worship, we'll enjoy a BBQ being planned by our Fellowship Commission.
- ◆ Planned 2016 Seder Service for Maundy Thursday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Planned special services for 2016: Youth Sunday (4/12), Women's Sunday (3/13), Ministry Fair, Pledge Sunday (11/20); Special Offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter), Pentecost 5/15, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, and Joy Gift (Christmas Eve).



Items for Session Approval

- ◆ Recommended combined worship services for the month of July, in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. APPROVED
- ◆ Recommended 2016 Communion Dates: the first Sunday of each month, excluding March and December, plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. APPROVED

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Ramsey, (Chair) Director of Music Ministries
(Deacon) Carol Webster, Worship
(Deacon) Karyn Weaver, Funerals/Memorials
(Deacon) Bev Goff, Prayer
(Elder) Nate Robinson, Worship
(Elder) Open, Youth
(Deacon) Bev Goff, Prayer Chain
Dan Reeves, Worship – HolyGrounds
Susan Durand, Greeters
Don Wilson, Ushers
Open, Liturgists



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

Discipleship Commission: Annual Report

Submitted by: Jasmine Couillard, Director of Christian Education

Sunday Christian Education continues to thrive for all ages: preschool through adult. We have seven classes meeting each week on campus. Four of the classes are adult classes! The elementary age classes have combined into two rooms. Bea Towe and Stephanie Gerlach are teaching the preschool through third grade students. Ruth Letizia and Deborah Rosen are teaching the fourth through sixth grade students. The teachers are excited about using a new elementary curriculum - Group Buzz! Each summer we combine the elementary classes so that our dedicated teachers can have a season off.



This year had a fun group of up to 19 kids each Sunday in one classroom! We ended our summer with a fun hands-on cooking class where the kids made and ate a pancake brunch.



Wednesday WRAP continues to meet from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in six week blocks during the school year. In May 2015 we closed out our year with an ice cream social and magic show presented by popular magician, Craig Davis. In September we kicked off our new year with a fun change to our weekly themes. We started doing prizes for the best costumes! Wednesday WRAP is open to families and individuals of all ages. We have fellowship, music classes, dinner, crafts, games and Bible study. Grief Share is a support group of those currently grieving the loss of a loved one. Grief Share kicked off their second 13 week session of classes this year, and they start each week with dinner in Fellowship Hall, joining the rest of the Wednesday WRAP attendees. There is an adult Bible study class that meets after dinner. This class would love to have visitors or new members! We are currently studying *Why We Believe* by Chip Ingram. Wednesday WRAP themes for February are:

February 3 – Music Night

February 10 – Valentine's

February 24 – Over the Rainbow

The church Nursery continues to be staffed each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The nursery has been moved inside the sanctuary (to the quiet room) for the 9:00 a.m. service. This allows flexibility to parents training their young ones to sit in the pew as well as the opportunity for these children to participate in the children's sermon!



For the first time ever, in 2015 FPC brought 5 preteens and 2 adults to the Super Start conference in Tempe! This was a fabulous weekend, in February, of worship, fellowship and bonding. We enjoyed a motorcycle show (inside the church's sanctuary!!!) as well as a trip to Golfland for games, ice cream, miniature golf and laser tag.

Vacation Bible School 2015 was a bit different than in past years. We met for four nights in June and learned about Jesus as well as Thailand through a program called Thailand Trek. We had a teen program in addition to our elementary program AND our very own teacher from Thailand! Charkreeya Francis, a Thai native, spent the week with us in a station called Experience Thailand. She brought toys, games, crafts, currency, food and many educational items from Thailand to share with us and educate us! VBS 2016 is already in the planning stages and will be Group's Expedition Norway. Plan now to join us June 13 – 16, 5:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Montlure Presbyterian Camp was held in Flagstaff, Arizona in summer of 2015. Fifteen children and youth attended through our church (3 more than last year!) and we were able to sponsor them with \$2,100 in scholarship funds!



Discipleship Commission: Youth Report

Submitted by: Anita Ramsey

During the spring of 2015, the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group was under the leadership of John and Mary Jane Hee with the assistance of Katelyn Eberhardt, Todd Ramsey and Gray Baker. They planned and carried out lessons, activities and projects for the Sunday School Hour each week as well as the Wednesday WRAP midweek program. The spring was filled with learning as the group went through the L.E.A.P of Faith curriculum.



They experienced fellowship and mission as they participated in Acquire the Fire and Souper Bowl Sunday. In April the kids were saddened as Katelyn, John, and Mary Jane resigned their positions. Todd and Gray continued to meet with the group as facilitators and carried on as Sunday School teachers.

In May, Anita Ramsey accepted the call as group leader for the summer months. She planned and oversaw the midweek activities and picked up the Sunday School lesson planning and teaching.

Throughout the summer months, the kids would also meet on Wednesday evenings for a social outing or a Youth Room Drop-in and Bible Study.

In the fall of

2015, FPC session posted the part-time position of Youth Director. Anita was one of the individuals who completed the application process, and she was selected for the position. The FPC Youth are now involved in a program that includes regular Christian Education, Fellowship Activities and Mission.

There were many opportunities for our youth to fellowship with one another and invite their friends to join in. In the summer the kids had several pool parties, spent a day at Sun Splash Water Park, participated in a scuba diving experience, a Diamondbacks baseball game, a waffle sundae party, Christmas in July, and ended the summer with a Good-pie party. Once school started, we continued to work some exciting activities into our calendar such as roller skating, Faith and Family Night with the Diamondbacks, Halloween Party, Hiking in Payson, Make a Difference Day, cookie baking and decorating, Thanksgiving Mexican Supper, and finishing the year with an evening of Laser Tag at Stratum and a Christmas Party.



As a mission project, the youth have selected the organization Feed My Starving Children on which to focus their efforts. Throughout the summer and fall, the kids have gone down to the FMSC facility and participated in six sessions where they packed food for the hungry. In addition to their hands-on mission, they have held cookie sales to raise money for the organization. With sales in September and December, the youth raised \$600 to donate to FMSC. This mission will continue into 2016.

Several of the youth have dusted off their bikes and formed a bicycle club. Every few weeks the group hops on their bikes and heads down the road for an adventure. The new group is unofficially named The Holy Rollers. This group hopes to grow and become a multi-generational group that is open to the entire congregation in 2016.

2015 has been a successful year for the youth with 20 youth participating on a regular basis.

Discipleship Commission: Preschool Report

Submitted by: Shiloh Murillo, Director



Pre-School

We truly feel blessed at our preschool as we look back at what 2015 has given us! There have been many new things happening that are bringing families from the community to join us. A huge Thank You goes out to all of the teachers for creating a loving and deeply caring environment for the families at First Presbyterian Preschool. They continue to grow in their profession with hands-on learning experiences and trainings that are required throughout the year. Some of the things that they have benefited from are the trainings from the East Valley

Christian Directors conference regarding the temperament of children and behavior management. They also took part in an Observation and Assessment Practical field trip this summer where they were able to go to two different centers and witness similarities and differences in program implementation. Many of them have renewed their

CPR & First Aid trainings this year as well. All of these trainings and experiences have been fundamental in maintaining the quality programming that we offer to the families that we serve.

One of the surprise joys was the birth of Demi McInnelly to Nicki and Doug McInnelly! Nicki was able to stay home with her for a couple of months and celebrate her beginning milestones. During this time, Kristy Biggs and Belinda Clark began the school year together for the Pre-K classroom. Debbie Warneke and Rachelle Schuster opened up the 3's classroom for us this year as well. We hired an afternoon teacher's aide for the fall to help with the large number of students that stayed in the afternoon. Shiloh Murillo completed her Director's credential with the National Louis University McCormick Institute of Early



Childhood Education.

We have had a beautiful partnership with Pastor Lois Hildenbrand this past year during our weekly chapel time with the families. We are enjoying the creativity that Pastor Lois brings to the children during each sermon! She encourages the children to grow in their faith and love of God. Dr. Mark Ramsey is also a huge blessing because he shares his great talents with us and the kids really enjoy it! Our attendance by the parents has diminished this year, but that does not change the energy that we foster with these children. We would like to see many more families join us as we worship each week, but sometimes the needs of the parents at drop-off time differ from the experiences that we offer to them. Here's to next year's parents and welcoming them to our weekly chapel time!

Our facility is licensed through the State Department of Health Services to provide services for up to 59 children in three classrooms. We also are a Department of Economic Security certified site which means that we are able to support those families in the community who are receiving services for childcare coverage so that they can work or go to school. The most important tools of advertising are your referrals and help with spreading the news of our program with others.

We are still receiving the benefits of participating in the Quality First Scholarship Program. We are a 3-Star rated program! We receive bi-weekly coaching services from Southwest Human Development. Our coach comes in to help support the work of our teaching staff by providing quality resources, support and trainings for the entire center. It has been a wonderful experience to have a constant resource and go-to contact for help when we need it.

Our funding from the Quality First Grant remained the same for the 2014-15 school year. We were allotted 10 full-time scholarships which can serve up to 20 children. We have been running the same schedule from



9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with two classrooms for the past school year. At the end of the school year in May there were 33 kids enrolled. As of December 31, 2015, we have 28 kids enrolled. We are seeing a unique change in the family dynamic and lack of involvement that these families are able to share with our program. It has become apparent that the needs of the community are changing, and we are focusing our efforts on meeting those needs as best we can. We hope to see a rise in the number of families and children that we serve for the coming year as part of our vision of growth for our school.



There have been a few physical changes around the preschool as well. We are pleased to announce the progress on the outside playground bathrooms. In November, the church partnered with the Head Start program to devise a plan to update the bathrooms and bring them into compliance with the state of Arizona's regulations. The work was started over the Christmas break. It is a refreshing feeling to see the improvements and know that our children and families will be able to enjoy the benefits of that for a long time!

As we look forward to 2016, we are hopeful that the Lord will continue to bless us by bringing the children of this community to our program. We anticipate this transition period for the Church and Preschool with the coming of a new pastor to be favorable and know that God has good things in store for all of us. We know that He is present in all that we do here, especially in the hearts of these little children!

Lastly, we appreciate all of your love and your willingness to continue to make the Preschool a ministry of the church. We are very blessed and know that God has so much in store for these children, families and the staff that work with them.

Coming up! Launch of All-Church Bible Study 'Psalm Sunday,' February 7th

Sunday, February 7th, will mark the launch of FPC's new all-church Bible study! The text of our study will be drawn from the Book of Psalms—thus, the title, 'Psalm Sunday.' A Psalm Sunday will be in the form of a Y'all Come Class, in the sanctuary from 10:35 – 11:25, offering an opportunity to gather together and study a psalm. For small groups that already meet on Sunday morning, the Psalm Sunday format will offer an opportunity to pause and do something a little different, at the rate of about one Psalm Sunday every other month.

Our first Psalm Sunday will focus on Psalm 91. Have you heard the current discussions about this psalm? Soldiers in Iraq tell of protection received as their company prayed this psalm. The Book of Psalms has a particular role as a treasure of Christian community. Historically, this book, more than any other, has provided the basis of Christian practice in daily life. Come find out more about the role of Psalms in our daily life as it is lived—with grief and thanksgiving, fear and hope, worship and praise.

MISSION

Pastor — Lois Hildenbrand
Mission (Chair--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

Evangelism

Bill Anderson

Just as last year, most of our efforts have been on maximizing our online presence. We have also been trying to do more with Facebook as a way of getting the word out about FPC. The best evangelism, however, happens as we invite our friends and neighbors!

Assimilation

Scott Logan

The Assimilation Deacon is responsible to contact second time visitors to our church. Phone calls are to welcome them to our church and to answer questions. The other responsibility is assisting with the new member class, telephoning the list of potential attenders reminding them about the class. Despite no new member class in 2015, we received four new people into membership. A new member class is scheduled for March 5th. If interested, call me at 480-545-7292.

Seasonal Ministries

Darlene Sitzler

Blood drive: The Mission Commission of FPC in partnership with the American Red Cross once again hosted two blood drives. The spring blood drive held in April had 31 registered donors, 6 of whom were first time donors, and they collected 30 units of blood. For the October blood drive there were 19 registered donors and they collected 22 units of blood. Once again, the American Red Cross was delighted with the outcomes, and the church has provided a valuable service to the community

Angel Tree: We sponsored three neighborhood families this year. As is the tradition of FPC, we provided gifts to each of the family members, as well as a holiday meal, other food stuffs, and an assortment of household and personal items.

Special Offerings:	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,100.15
	Pentecost Offering	\$ 584.00
	Global Peace and Witness Offering	\$1,475.00
	Christmas Joy Offering	\$3,567.00

These are the totals received for the special offerings. Thank you all for your generosity in giving.

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries

Jane Potyka

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) had a busy year in 2015. The total number of calls when the MPM phone line was open continues to exceed 500, with about 1/3 of those receiving assistance of some sort: utilities, rent, food, medical, transportation, and other miscellaneous items.

Deacon's Food Cupboard

Sandy Clark

The Food Cupboard continues to have high demand, with approximately 65 bags being given out each week. If each of these 3,250 bags goes to a family of four, there is an impact of 13,000 people served, and an estimated dollar value of nearly \$134,000! Thank you, congregation, for your generous support of the food pantry.

Mission Trip / Mesa Make a Difference

Sue Eisenklam

A team of 21 people waxed sculptures in downtown Mesa as part of the Annual Mesa Make a Difference Day. There was no Mission Trip in 2015. We have already begun planning for a 2016 summer mission trip. The youth have taken Feed My Starving Children on for on-going mission work during 2015/2016 school year. See discipleship/youth section for specifics.

Laubach Literacy

Rita Morrisey

This past year Mesa Laubach Literacy had 74 tutors. There were 2,012 instructional hours. Tutors and support staff spent another 2,938 hours driving, training, and tracking tutors. There were 98 students served, mainly Hispanic and Asian backgrounds, 20 were male and 78 were female. Their average age was 25-44. Of these, 2 students got a job, 13 improved employability skills, 12 entered other education and/or training, 19 advanced in curriculum series levels, 1 achieved citizenship, 1 got a driver's license, 1 registered to vote, and 3 attained consumer skills. Thirty-one students left the program for various reasons. The average stay is 7-12 months. All in all, a very productive year! The support of FPC is greatly appreciated.

Habitat for Humanity

Jeanne Partida

FPC joined with Habitat for Humanity to help renovate a house in Apache Junction. We worked over two different weekends on a five-week renovation. In addition to those who rolled up their sleeves and did the work, members of the church provided coffee and donuts as well as lunch. FPC's direct financial support of Habitat for Humanity in 2015 was \$2,750. The 2016 project has already been scheduled for March 12th and April 2nd.

Mission Commission Report continues on page 14

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Alan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Kate Buck

Personnel (D) —
Nominating (E) — Jim Schwartzmann

Nominating (D) — Miki Newbry
Stewardship/Finance (E) — David Frederick

The Ministry Commission is the “business arm” of the church. It oversees Property and Grounds, Stewardship, the Finance Committee, Personnel, Nominating and Session.

Property

Allan Schultz

There were several work orders submitted to repair/replace small items and make repairs to church facilities and the Preschool buildings from the simple door stopper, hinge and lock repair/replacement, plumbing repairs, soap and paper towel dispenser replacements, all considered normal and ordinary maintenance issues.

The Christian Education building exterior lighting did not comply with the City of Mesa Building ordinance and was replaced by Dave’s Crew. The existing fluorescent lighting fixtures were replaced with low voltage LED lamps at a cost of \$1,485.50. It is felt that our cost will be repaid in a few years because the cost of operating LED is 1/10 the cost of fluorescent lamps power demand and bulb replacements at \$3.00 each.

We had several unplanned expenses in 2015 that included \$930.67 in HVAC repairs, \$370.33 to replace the Trinity Building water heater, \$1,403.00 Preschool and Head Start County and state mandated repairs and \$840.77 to make repairs to our incoming natural gas supply piping that was out of state and city code. Total unplanned maintenance was \$3,544.77.

There were several small projects completed in 2015 to enhance the appearance of our facility, dollars were paid to individuals to re-paint the majority of the building doors, clean trash and debris from the Preschool flat roof areas and courtyard tiled roof areas, parking lot curb painting, Sanctuary HVAC cooling tower area cleaning, Trinity building exterior lighting globe cleaning to name a few.

We anticipate continuing our day to day maintenance in the way of repairs and improvements in 2016 to maintain our property in as good a shape as possible and what budget dollars will allow.

Finance and Stewardship

David Frederick

The committee meets monthly to review the church’s financial reports prepared by church bookkeeper, Kathe Patchin. The Finance Committee consists of David Frederick – Chair, Stewardship Elder, and Treasurer; Allan Schultz – Church President and Property Elder; Jack Gunter – Endowment Committee Chair; Jim Schwartzmann – Ex-Officio Finance Chair; Brent Gregory, Jan Montgomery, and Mary Jane Hee – at-large members.

This year a study of church finances was conducted which categorized the money we spent. A graph of the breakdown has been posted in the display case near the office door. The percentage of church income is spent in the following areas:

▪ Governance	26%
▪ Youth	15%
▪ Worship	14%
▪ Music	14%
▪ Community	9%
▪ Member Ministries	8%
▪ Fellowship	7%
▪ Missions	6%

FPC finished the year with no financial deficits. Actual income was \$390,000 compared with a budget of \$414,000, however, expenses were reduced by a corresponding amount to ensure a break-even.

The Stewardship campaign began in the spring of 2015 with a goal of raising \$250,000 in order to replace the aging roof of our sanctuary. This is a multi-year effort that will end in December 2016. As of December 31, 2015 we have raised more than \$121,000, which is 49% of our goal.

On November 22nd, Stewardship Sunday, pledges were collected in church. A count of the 2016 pledge forms indicated 86 pledges were received for a total of \$258,000. Faithful giving has helped the church complete important projects this year: replacement of air conditioning units and consistent numbering and labeling of each room on campus. The Stewardship committee is grateful to those who have remembered the church in their estate planning.

Personnel

Kate Buck

The Personnel Committee consists of Personnel Elder, Kate Buck, and committee members, Brent Gregory, Dennis Sitzler and Marcy Snitzer. The committee took the following actions in 2015: created a Code of Conduct and Ministry Standards document for youth activities; hired Anita Ramsey as our permanent Youth Director; recommended staff bonuses for end-of-year 2015; recommended salaries for the 2016 fiscal budget. The Personnel Deacon position went unfilled for 2015, but a candidate has been found who will be elected and installed for 2016.

Ministry Commission Report continues on page 11

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

Fellowship Commission: Annual Report

Submitted by: Dan Davenport, Fellowship Elder

The Fellowship Commission puts on, or assists with, many social activities during the year. This provides opportunities for our congregation to enjoy each others' company and provides some fun events to attend. This also encourages our congregation members to invite their friends to come and meet our church family, while having fun participating in the events with us. We encourage everyone to wear NAME BADGES, which we provide upon request, so everyone can easily know/learn each others' names. We also coordinate Coffee Hosts & Baked Goodies teams which provide refreshments during Coffee Time after first service each Sunday in Fellowship Hall.

- Fellowship provided a soup luncheon after the Prayer Walk – January 4th.
- Fellowship sponsored a “Chili Cookoff” dinner associated with the Annual Congregational Meeting – February 8th.
- Fellowship held a BBQ at Fellowship Hall following the Worship at Mesa Arts Center – March 29th.
- Fellowship assisted with the EGGStravaganza event & breakfast – April 4th.



- Fellowship worked as dinner servers/cleanup during the 4 dinner theater plays put on by the First Players in April.
- Fellowship sponsored a Salsa Challenge dinner – May 16th.
- Fellowship provided an Italian Potluck dinner – June 28th.
- Fellowship sponsored a “Movie afternoon” with JC Films guest star Tim Goodwin attending the event – August 8th.
- Fellowship put on an Ice Cream Social, with our Praise Band in concert – September 27th.
- Fellowship sponsored a Road Rally and dinner – October 10th.
- Fellowship sponsored our annual Craft Fair – November 14th.
- Fellowship/Flinn Lund put on a Thanksgiving Day dinner – November 27th.

Fellowship Plans for the future

Your Fellowship Commission members are busy making plans for the events we'll hold in 2016:

- We've already held a January 16th Western Hoedown BBQ dinner, with Square Dance caller Bill Kanai.
- The annual Chili-Cookoff Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Congregation Annual Meeting February 28th.
- We'll have a BBQ following “Worship at Pioneer Park” on March 6th.
- The Easter EGGStravaganza event / continental breakfast will be held on March 26th.
- The Music teams are putting together the annual church musicals in April. Fellowship will no doubt assist with the dinners preceding these shows.
- We'll host our Salsa Challenge Dinner in May, where contestants vie for prizes for the best home-made salsa.
- We plan on hosting an Ice Cream Social in August, with some type of entertainment planned.
- We will put on another Road Rally in October where teams receive clues and travel the city to locate their destinations and next clues on the route. Prizes are awarded for the team finishing closest to the average course navigation time, with a dinner at the end of the event where teams can exchange “war stories” of the event.
- We'll have another great Craft Fair in November, and another Thanksgiving dinner.



LOTS of fun events will be happening at your church this year. Are there other events that you would like to see us sponsor this year? If so, LET US KNOW. New ideas are welcome and needed. We are always looking for new events to provide an opportunity for our congregation and their friends to get together, socialize, and have some fun in the name of our Lord Jesus!

COME TO THE WATERS

The PW Bible study, *Come to the Waters*, turns to some of the water stories in the Bible to learn about the power of water, its potential, and its effects on our lives.

Water is a universal theme because every living thing needs water. Water plays a central role in stories of scripture, from the chaotic waters of creation in Genesis, to the River of Life in Revelation. The rich imagery of water throughout the Bible helps us understand our faith. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls.

Women of the congregation are invited to participate in this dynamic study. Please come to one of our circles.

- ❖ 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

PW Coordinating Team will meet Tuesday, February 2, 1:00, library.



Ministry Commission Report continues from page 9

Nominating

Your Nominating committee is searching for members to serve in the many positions of help and trust to move our church community forward into 2016 and beyond. There are numerous important and interesting jobs that need to be done in the upcoming years. Some members have said they are busy and feel that accepting a commitment to the work of the church would be too difficult or time consuming. Many of these jobs may only require one day or less per month to actually meet in an official capacity and can then be completed at home via telephone, e-mail or texting. If you have never been an officer, please prayerfully consider accepting if asked and or calling one of the committee members. I have gotten a much better understanding of our church missions and work and have obtained the bonus of meeting the great and helpful members of our congregation. Several committee members are currently working to fill the positions, and you can contact them directly. They are: myself, Renita Jurgensen, Mike Gerlach, Janet Verch, Miki Newbry, and Ellen Hickey. Prayerfully consider accepting a position to do the important and rewarding work of our church.

Jim Schwartzmann

Session

During 2015, session met in eleven Stated Meetings. In addition to the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, there were two Called Congregational Meetings. We met with the Deacons and church staff for our Annual Retreat in August. Four new members were added to the Active Roll and 33 members were transferred or removed. Membership as of December 31, 2015 is 290.

The following members were transferred to the Church Triumphant: Nancy Bockler, Marion Klassen, Nell Evans, Eleanor Daniels, Carl Jensen, Kay Lutman, Ruth Pomeroy and Mary Lou Vickery.

Linda Hayball

Endowment

The Endowment Committee consists of Jack Gunter, Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee, Ron Payton, Jim Schwartzmann, and Skeets Throckmorton, with David Frederick, stewardship elder, serving as an ex-officio member. The committee met three times during 2015 and has undertaken the following actions:

- Continued oversight of the Endowment Funds including the Kissinger, Mehlhop, Stubblefield, and Montlure Funds with a total value of \$104,840.27 as of December 31, 2015. In addition, the General Endowment Fund value was \$78,904.88 and the Capital Endowment Fund was \$52,627.19. The Worship Arts Endowment Fund value was \$12,292.33, the Organ Maintenance Fund value was \$11,712.60, and the Columbarium Fund value was 22,042.58.
- Received \$5,000.00 for organ maintenance, \$1,000.00 for Montlure camp scholarships, \$13,692.35 for capital improvements, and \$1,314.81 for worship arts.
- Dispersed \$1,355.00 of the Montlure fund income for youth camp scholarships.
- Continued to interpret the endowment concept to the congregation in conjunction with an Endowment Fund brochure and Minutes for Mission, conveying the need for further contributions to the Endowment Fund.

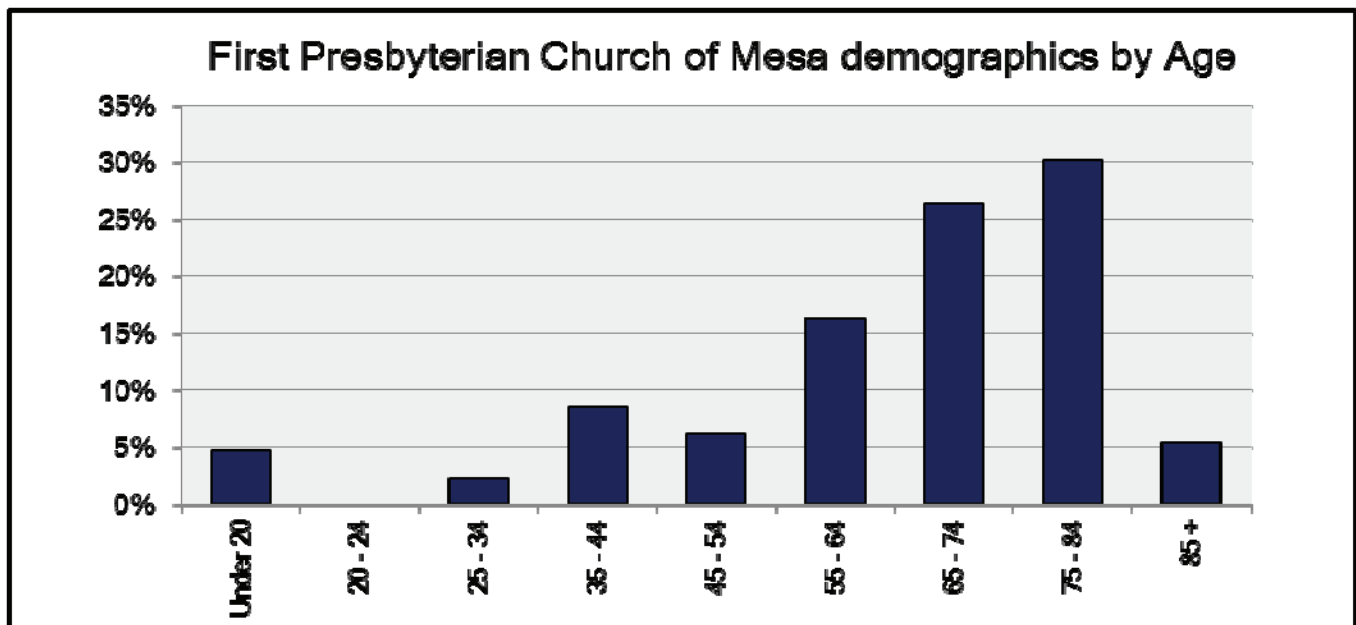
Brent Gregory

MISSION STUDY UPDATE AND SURVEY RESULTS

Your Mission Study Team has been meeting and working over the past few months toward its goal of creating a Mission Study Report. The final document will recommend the type of leadership skills needed in our new pastor and communicate our ministry narrative to prospective pastors. We hope to inform prospective pastoral applicants who we are as a church, what our vision for the future is and our priorities as we conduct worship and work in the name of our Lord.

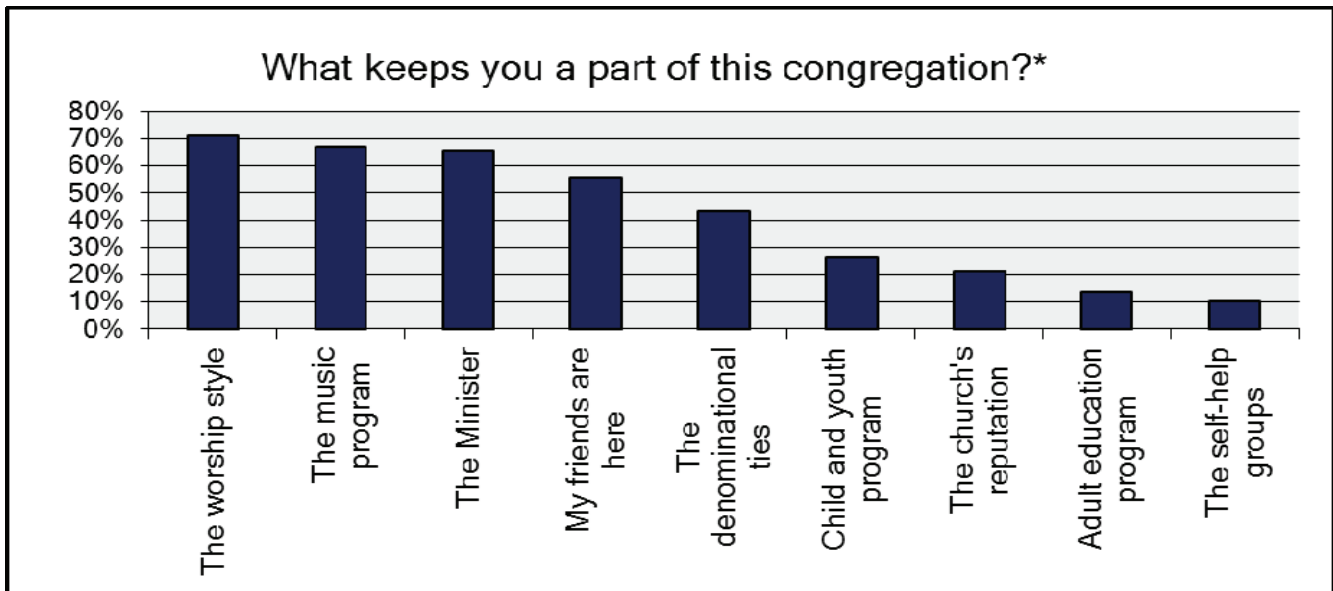
Many thanks to 148 church attendees who participated in the congregational survey last fall. In addition, Congregational Conversations took place throughout January giving congregants a chance to provide feedback on any issues or topics not covered in the survey. The following is a summarization of the survey; complete data is available by request through the church office. Three distinct categories of responses were collected: demographical information, statements of beliefs, and a collection of qualities that the congregation would like to see in our future pastor.

The demographical data collected was quite predictable. The majority of our church is over 55 and retired, has lived in the area for over 20 years, commutes 15 minutes to church, attends regularly and is very active in many varied church activities.



Regarding the church's beliefs and values:

1. 78% were satisfied with the church's tasks in the areas of Christian education; worship, helping members deepen their personal spiritual relationship with God, charitable services, providing a caring ministry, and pastoral counseling.
2. 57% indicated satisfaction with sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched,
3. 41+% expressed a need for more emphasis on the above.
4. 68% were satisfied with understanding FPC's stewardship of money, time and talents and 30% marked that this area needing more emphasis.
5. 58% indicated they felt the current morale of the church is high.
6. 43% agreed that there is a sense of excitement among members about our church's future.



*Answers differed in the <54 age bracket. Child and Youth program was their top answer.

Top 10 Leadership Qualities Desired

1. **Preaching and worship leadership** – is a consistently effective preacher and worship leader
2. **Spiritual Maturity** – shows strong personal depth and spiritual grounding
3. **Compassionate** – having the ability to suffer with others
4. **Communicator** –active listening and meaningful oral and written presentation of information
5. **Motivator** – creates and sustains an organizational culture
6. **Advisor** – an individual others turn to for counsel and guidance
7. **Decision making** –balancing analysis, wisdom, experience, and judgment
8. **Organizational agility** –knows how to get things done through formal and informal channels
9. **Interpersonal engagement** – builds relationships of trust and respect
10. **Public Communicator** – has a comfortable ease when speaking in a variety of settings

In summary, we discovered that our church is healthy and vibrant. There is a desire for better communication from church leaders and organizations to the congregation and to our surrounding community. Both young and old believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and its teachings are clear. The resurrection from the dead was an actual event and as a result and there is no other way to salvation except through Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your participation, guidance and continued prayed as we look forward to the future of our church community.

February Birthdays



Peggy Anderson	1st
Patty Carnes	1st
Alma Post	1st
Kara Gregory	2nd
Will Snitzer	2nd
Josh Leichtman	6th
Gary Clark	7th
Nate Buck	9th
Isobel Letizia	9th
Bob Trimble	9th
Ginny Mallia	11th
Karen Williams	12th
Kate Buck	14th
John Peterson	15th
Bob Schulz	15th
John Goings, Jr.	16th
Brock Hoyman	16th
Sharon Brause	19th
Richard Schroeder	19th
Storm Johnson	21st
Gavin Mallia	21st
Clara Padelford	21st
Kim Roberts	21st
Lucy Carlyon	22nd
R.J. Watson	22nd
Bryan Hickey	25th
Elly Weinel	26th
Lee Tobey	27th
Linda Free	28th
Bob Strader	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.*

Mission Commission Report continued from page 8 I Help Nancy Tordai

FPC hosted 36 Sunday nights in 2015 at an average of 22 ladies each night. There were 792 dinners, breakfasts and lunches provided for a total of 2,376 meals. Thank you to the "village" of people who helped on Sunday evenings, who prepared hot breakfasts, who picked up and delivered the laundry each week, who prayed, and who donated drinking water, bath supplies and money. In December we had the annual Christmas party hosted by the WOW small group. There were gifts for each lady, food, games, cookie decorating, and Christmas carol singing.

We want to thank Lois for her hospital visit, calls and prayers. And thank you fellow members for your prayers, thoughts, cards and well wishes. You don't know how much you all mean to us.

Fran and Jack Gunter



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Conner, Dorothy
701 S. Dobson Rd., #485
Mesa, AZ 85202

Calendar Notes

February 7

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 8 & 9

Circles meet

February 10

Ash Wednesday

February 12-14

Choir Retreat

February 15

President's Day — Office Closed

February 21

Winter Visitor Sunday

February 28

Monthly Food Drive



IN MEMORIAM

Mary Lou Vickery — December 24, 2015



Financial Reports are not published but are available for pick up at the kiosk or church office beginning February 7th.

See calendar on website:

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