

La Palabra

July 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“...You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Yes, YOU are called! You are included among God’s elect. For some, this might be a revelation for they believe that only a few are called, and those are called to greatness. Some believe that. For the rest of us, we will stumble through life and somehow or another, barely make it into Heaven. I do not believe, nor does God’s Word teach, that we are to barely do anything for the cause of Christ. God did not send Jesus to die on a cross for us to “just barely” do anything! God’s Word declares that we are more than conquerors through Christ and that He would do exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ask or think. God’s promises are always above and beyond. They are not sparse in the least, but are given in great abundance!

I believe God’s calling is two-fold. There is the general calling to all – the call of salvation, that none would be lost. There is a second calling to the individual – the call of a servant. It is in this calling that we must decrease so the Spirit of God may increase in us. Christ teaches us that it is from the least that greatness comes. Paul, one of the greatest apostles, said he was the least of the least.

Many of you are sitting squarely in your calling and you don’t realize it. You have access to the power of the Trinity to accomplish God’s will in your life. Some look at other people with the thought that it would be nice to be called of God, when in fact, YOU were created for a purpose and your greatness and destiny lies in God. I challenge you this day to steal away to some quiet place and ask God not only to reveal His specific calling for you, but for God to accomplish His perfect plan in your life.

We will never know our destiny in Christ until we do two things: we reach a place where we say to God, “I completely give myself to You for You to do with me as You desire,” and we ask God to use the Holy Spirit to break us and remold us into God’s image. I believe as we catch a glimpse of who God calls us to be, it will amaze us, excite us and cause any forces that hinder us to flee. For greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. May God (and others) encourage you in your surrender and in God’s calling.

Blessings...Lois

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WORSHIP

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

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

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



Vintage Rocket will perform on Sunday, August 28th, at our Fellowship Commission's annual Ice Cream Social. The concert, presented by our Church Artist Series, will begin at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and will feature our very own FPC One Voice member John Couillard. *Vintage Rocket* is a 4-piece cover band which has played in the Valley for many years. They play classic rock, alternative, R&B, and some original songs. Check the group's [Facebook](#) page, and join us for an afternoon of great entertainment! *Vintage Rocket* will begin the 2016-17 Artist Series, and other events will include:

- 9/11 Territorial Brass in Worship
- 9/25 Concert: High Priority 2016 International Seniors Quartet Champion 11/20 High Priority in Worship
- 12/11 Concert: Arizona Cantilena Chorale Christmas Concert 3/24 - 4/1 Theater: First Players 21st Annual Production
- 4/14 Good Friday Service of Darkness
- 5/7 Concert: Soprano Stephanie Ball & Baritone Tom Sitzler

Donations to the Church Artist Series are always welcome. For information, please visit the [Artist Series](#) page of our church website.

Coming Events

- 9/11 Territorial Brass in Worship (with Paul Green on Tuba)
- 9/25 Concert by the 2016 International Seniors Quartet Champion “High Priority” (with Dan Davenport on Bass)

Humoresque

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

The president of a large managed health care facility also served on the board of his community's symphony orchestra. Finding that he could not go to one of the concerts, he gave his tickets to the company's director of health care cost containment. The next morning, he asked the director how he enjoyed the performance. Instead of the usual polite remarks, the director handed him a memo which read as follows: The undersigned submits the following comments and recommendations relative to the performance of Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" by this city's symphony orchestra as observed under actual working conditions: (A.) The attendance of the conductor is unnecessary for the public performances. The orchestra has obviously practiced and has the prior authorization from the conductor to play the symphony at a predetermined level of quality. Considerable money could be saved merely by having the conductor critique the orchestra's performance during a retrospective peer review meeting. (B.) For considerable periods, the four oboe players had nothing to do. Their numbers should be reduced and their work spread over the whole

orchestra, thus eliminating peaks and valleys of activity. (C.) All 12 violins were playing identical notes with identical motions. This is unnecessary duplication: the staff of this section should be cut drastically with consequent savings. If a large volume of sound is required, this could be obtained through electronic amplification, which has reached high levels of reproductive quality. (D.) Much effort was expended playing 16th notes or semi-quavers. This seems an excessive refinement, as most listeners are unable to distinguish such rapid playing. It is recommended that all notes be rounded up to eighths. If this is done, it would also be possible to use trainees and lower grade musicians with no loss of quality. (E.) No useful purpose would appear to be served by repeating with horns the same passage that has already been handled by the strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated, as determined by the utilization review committee, the concert would have been reduced from two hours to about 20 minutes, resulting in substantial savings in salaries and overhead. In fact, if Schubert had addressed these concerns on a cost containment basis, he probably would have been able to finish this symphony!

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Bill Rummeler
Youth Elder — Gregg Gerlach

Don't miss out on Summer Sunday School classes. The summer is the only time of year that we combine our children in one room! All preschool through sixth grade students are invited in room Jackson B from 10:30 – 11:20. Much fun is to be had with games, crafts, lessons, treats and snacks!

Dear FPC Members,

Thank you for your love and support of the preschool. It is such a beautiful blessing to be surrounded by such caring and generous people who love children as much as we do! This school year will begin our 30th Anniversary year! We really need your help in spreading the word about our little school. We are currently enrolling for the fall 2017 school year. Our two classrooms have plenty of room to add more little friends who are potty-trained and must be at least 2 1/2 years old to start on August 15, 2016. We do have a scholarship program available that we would like to offer to those who 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 9:00-11:30 a.m. Please encourage all to stop by and take a tour. We really appreciate your help!

Also, SAVE the DATE of September 17, 2016. We will be celebrating this 30th Anniversary Year with a dinner auction fundraiser for the preschool. Looking forward to celebrating with all of you on this monumental occasion!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director



News from your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)

The following people were elected to the PNC: Barbara Walker, Carol Anderson, Darlene Sitzler, Hal Engman, David Frederick, Jeanne Partida, Nancy Tordai, Stan Snitzer, and Todd Ramsey. The committee is Co-Chaired by Jeanne Partida and Barbara Walker. David Frederick is the secretary and Carol Anderson leads us in a brief devotion at the beginning of each meeting. The Rev. Dr. Art Campbell, a member of Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, is our liaison.

We are meeting every Wednesday and will continue to do so until our work is completed. Currently we are completing the Ministries Information Form (MIF) which is a written picture of our congregation and the desires we would like to have in our new pastor. It is your input from the Mission Study document that we are following to complete the MIF. Many thanks to the committee and the congregation for providing us with a wonderful guideline as to what you expect in our new pastor.

Once the MIF is completed, it will go to the Session for approval and then to the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon Committee on Ministry for approval. We will then submit the MIF to the Church Leadership Connect of the PCUSA where it will be posted and possible candidates are matched with our desires. At that point the PNC will begin to collect, screen and start the interview process with potential pastors. Once we find the candidate that we feel will fit our congregation, we will present him/her to you for your consideration.

Due to the sensitivity and out of respect to potential candidates, the committee has agreed to maintain confidentiality. We ask that you continue to pray for the members of the PNC as we search for our next pastor. Your prayers and comments are always welcome.

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

Summer Mission Trip:

And we are off! Seventeen Spirited Presbyterians from FPC Mesa are headed to Del Muerto, Arizona July 8th– 13th. Please pray for the participants for good experiences of building relationships, painting the outsides of the church and fellowship hall, and sharing in putting on Vacation Bible School. Pray for traveling mercies as we go and come back and for safe keeping while we are there. Look forward to hearing all about it!

Mission Partner:

Meet Leslie Vogel, PCUSA mission co-worker in Guatemala since 2013, and FPC Mesa’s new mission partner. For two years, the FPC Mission Commission has sent small contributions to Leslie to support the work she does in Guatemala. Now by approval of the Session, we are ready to enter into a partnership. We will get to know her, who she is, what she does, and how we can support her. We have opened the door to regular communication and will share that information with the congregation.

Leslie is an Intercultural Encounters facilitator with the Protestant Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). She helps CEDEPCA provide people from the US with opportunities that enable them to work alongside Guatemalans and experience everyday life in the country. Leslie says her work with CEDEPCA in Guatemala focuses on challenges related to poverty and violence and to transformative education for church leadership, which are three critical global issues identified by Presbyterian World Mission as priorities.



Leslie explains: “I particularly love learning about and introducing groups to the work CEDEPCA does in pastoral formation with women and men all over Guatemala, addressing the root causes of poverty with an understanding that women and children are the large majority of ‘the poor,’ and examining the cultures of violence on many levels of society (political, criminal, and domestic) in both Guatemala and the United States. I also value sharing how US Presbyterians are working with our global partners to address these concerns, grounded in our common faith in Jesus Christ. All of CEDEPCA’s four programs focus on education with Guatemalans and with North Americans that truly transforms our ways of understanding God’s mission and our role as partners in God’s mission. It is an education that transforms minds, hearts and even daily realities of the lives and communities where we live out God’s call.” (Information taken from Leslie’s prayer card and from her March 2015 Letter in the *Making Connections*, a PCUSA publication.)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2016

	For the Month		Year to Date 2016		Year to Date
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget +/-
INCOME	32,886	32,644	154,573	163,220	-8,647
EXPENSE	30,229	33,765	161,270	168,825	-7,555
DIFFERENCE	2,657		-6,697		-1,092

If you have questions regarding this report, contact Bob Gerlach at 480-458-7619.

MINISTRY

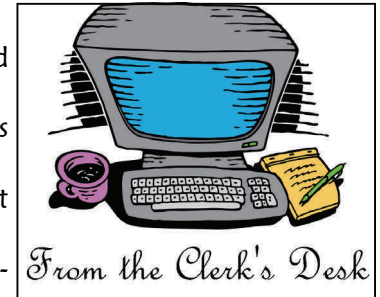
Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Allan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Kate Buck

Personnel (D) — Susan McMichael
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Miki Newbry
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

Session highlights:

- Session voted to use our 40% of the Pentecost offering to help fund the mission trip.
- At the request of the Endowment Committee, Renita Jurgensen was added to their membership.
- Presbytery will hold a training event in Tucson on Saturday, August 20th. All are welcome.
- The Mission Commission moved we adopt PCUSA sponsored missionary Leslie Vogel in Guatemala as a mission partner. Approved.
- The Mission Study team was dissolved with thanks. Members were: Kate Buck, Jeanne Partida, Dick Baird, Jennifer Martin, Kelly Woods, Todd Ramsey, Carol Anderson, Bill Lents and Marcy Snitzer
- Session created an AD Hoc Committee to coordinate our by-laws, written policies and procedures and compare them with our actual practices. Ad Hoc Members are: Carol Gerlach, Barbara Walker, Brent Gregory, Jan Montgomery and Jim Bruening. Session will meet in June to approve necessary changes and call a Special Congregational Meeting if it is necessary to change any By-Laws.
- The following 2019 officers elect, having completed training were examined and welcomed by session. Elders: Sue Eisenklam, Bob Gerlach, Stephanie Gerlach, Dennis Sitzler and Barbara Walker (2018) Deacons: Dale Gibson, Cindy Davenport, Joy Schulz, Darlene Sitzler, Miki Newbry, Carol Gerlach, Susan McMichael and Mark Waters.



Also from the Clerk: I was asked about our Per Capita to Presbytery. This is set before the end of the year, so our 2016 Per Capita was calculated using our 12/31/2014 membership count. Each year, we pay the new rate times the number of members. In 2016, we will pay \$34 times 319 members at 12/2014 or \$10,846 to Presbytery. For 2015 it was \$31 times 363 members at 12/2013 or \$11,235. Payments are made in monthly installments.

From Bob Gerlach, Treasurer

In June the Pastor Nominating Committee started its work to find our next Pastor. The Session wants to be very transparent as to where we stand financially and where we need to go as we draw closer to having our next Pastor on board.

Hopefully you have noticed the Financial Report that has been in the Church bulletin and last month's La Palabra which indicates we are in deficit spending. Lois Hildenbrand, our Interim Pastor, receives a financial package (salary, housing and all benefits) of \$65,066 per year, a real bargain. Rev. Dr. Brant Baker received \$110,461 in 2012. Granted he did not get that much when he started in 1999. His starting salary was \$63,000.

We are certain we will not find a Pastor that we want for less than \$85,000. In addition there will be a one time relocation cost of as much as \$10,000. Our present Expense Budget for 2016 is \$405,188. It includes a line item of \$19,000 which represents the extra expense in the fourth quarter if we were to have someone on board by that time. Projecting a \$85,000 Pastoral package to 2017, gives us an expense budget of \$424,828 even with no other changes.

July Birthdays



Sharon Schroeder	2nd
Ruth Landers	3rd
Marcy Snitzer	3rd
Tate Posthumus	4th
Anne Schafer	5th
Rebecca Andreen	8th
Kevin Reeves	10th
Virginia Leigh	11th
Linda Hayball	12th
Jo Throckmorton	13th
Jackie Kambak	14th
Jessi Smith	14th
Katelyn Eberhardt	15th
Kristen Hull	15th
Angelina Waters	15th
Andrew Frederick	17th
Ruth Letizia	17th
Brielle Reeves	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
Tom Watson	25th
Chaz McInelly	27th
Casey Johnson	28th
Demi McInelly	28th
Dorothy Shearin	29th
Jackie St. Louis	30th

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 4th of July!

Calendar Notes

July 4

Office Closed

July 6

Youth—Laser Tag

July 8-13

Mission Trip to Chinle

July 17

Youth Movie Night

July 20

Open Youth Room

July 24

Youth to Rattlers Game

July 27

Open Youth Room

July 30

Monthly Food Drive
Youth—Christmas in July



IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Miller — May 20, 2016



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