

La Palabra

April 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“For everything there is a season, and a time for everything under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Happy Easter! A new season has begun!

Spring is officially here. Each day's surprises remind us of that for which we have hoped through the winter: longer days, warmer temperatures and your own personal favorites. (For me, that's getting the motorcycle back out.) With apologies to allergy sufferers, now we have leaves on all the trees. Jacarandas are in bloom. Wildflowers are ablaze in the desert. Pools are uncovered. The list could go on. These are good signs though we're also saying, "See you later" to our church's Winter Visitors.

In chapter 3 the writer of Ecclesiastes goes on to list reminders of the natural cycles of life: birth and death, planting and harvesting, keeping and throwing away. He goes on to say, "I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end," (vv. 10-11) meaning that we know what has already happened. What God has done has been made known to us, but the future holds the unknown. Only God knows how what is to be will take place.

Bert and I have spent just over a year with the wonderful people of First Presbyterian Church. It has truly been a blessing watching you stretch and grow, pray and praise, and make yourselves available to what God will do next in and through the people of FPC. Only God knows what will happen next. My prayer is that new and exciting things will come forth in the transition from what used to be to what lies ahead. And, that just as the Citrus Trees are blooming, so new and inspiring ways of being in ministry to God's people will bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Just as the wind blows through the trees and rustles the leaves, so the Holy Spirit will encourage and empower each of you to BE the Church God has planned.

God "has made everything suitable for its time," Ecclesiastes 3:11 says. And so, a new season begins for FPC and for the building up of those who take the Easter message of Christ forward, Christ is Risen: He is Risen Indeed!

Only God knows what the future holds, but we look forward with anticipation to the new season into which we enter and pray great things happen from this day forward.

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

FIRST PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER STAGES MARY POPPINS!



The First Players Community Theater will present its 20th annual production, MARY POPPINS, on Fridays and Saturdays, April 1 & 2, 8 & 9 as dinner theaters beginning at 5:30 p.m. The show will be held in Fellowship Hall and will be under the leadership of Production Director Anita Ramsey and Music Director Mark Ramsey.

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.

Our First Players production cast will feature Kate Buck as “Mary Poppins,” Brooks Newbry as “Bert,” John Couillard as “George Banks,” Joy Schulz as “Winifred Banks,” Tanya Snitzer as “Jane,” and Carter Buck as “Michael.” The Players will be accompanied by a full pit orchestra of trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, cello, piano, synthesizer, choir, and percussion.

Dinner-Theater Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$10 for ages 10 and under, with a maximum of \$60 per household. The dinner menu will include roast beef & gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, dessert, and beverages. Tickets are available in the Church Office during the week, during Sunday fellowship time, and on our church website (www.fpcmesa.org - share the link with your friends and colleagues!). MARY POPPINS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, www.mti.com. For more information, please drop by the church office or call Mark at (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103.

Coming Event: 4/24 Youth Sunday, Combined Worship in the Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour and Sunday School for all ages.

Humoresque

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

The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher called a hen a most elegant creature. The hen, pleased with that, laid an egg in his hat, and thus did the hen reward Beecher. - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. [from Chuck Gibson]

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 winding down for the year. Please join us on April 6th for a Hawaiian Luau. On April 13th we will have our annual closing banquet. All are welcome! We will enjoy a game of Fear Factor put on by Deb's Dragons. All of the games are toned down for small children, while becoming increasingly more challenging for teens and adults. This party is guaranteed to be fast-paced and exciting.



If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, it may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future. You may have found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. That's the reason for GriefShare. This support group is especially for people grieving the loss of someone close. It is sponsored by people who understand what you are feeling and want to offer comfort and encouragement during this difficult time. GriefShare is a non-denominational group and features biblical teaching on grief and recovery topics. Grief Share meets on Wednesday nights in the FPC Library at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Ruth Rummler (480-415-4925) or Jeanne Partida (480-292-8940) for more information.

Vacation Bible School 2016 has some exciting additions this year! This year we will have three tracks for the entire family to participate!

- Track 1: Expedition Norway VBS for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall.
- Track 2: Teen Track for students entering seventh through twelfth grade in the fall.
- Track 3: Adult Bible study track for all ages – male and female!



These three tracks allow our program to be a family VBS program! This also allows FPC to have a four night long multigenerational program! During the congregational conversations, there was discussion about having activities where the older generations of the church could build relationships with the younger generations of the church – VBS is it! An opportunity for relationship building and fun!

This program runs June 20th – June 23rd from 5:45 – 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$15 for one person or \$45 for an entire family.



Montlure Presbyterian Church Camp is a ministry for all to find and grow their faith in Jesus Christ. Montlure's primary objective is to provide a Christian camping ministry of the highest quality for children and youth in grades 4-12. Campers travel to camp by bus and sleep in cabins. Each camp is led by a strong Christian staff drawn from Presbyterian Churches across Arizona. Montlure is an American Camp Association Accredited Camp operating in accordance with the highest national standards. This year Montlure will be located at Camp Colton, outside of Flagstaff. Each child of FPC is invited to apply for a \$140 scholarship to help defray the cost of camp. This scholarship application is due 4 weeks prior to the start of camp.

(See Preschool Report on Page 4.)

The month of March has been very lively for our little friends at the Pre-school. We had a little bit of rain and a lot of smiles because of it! During April we will be learning about all kinds of Bears, Pond Life, Family Pets, Plants and Seeds, and Children from Around the World. It will be fun to discover new things.



Did you know that in August 2016 the First Presbyterian Preschool turns 30 years old? We are so proud of the program that we offer to the community and want to share it with others, BUT we need your help! It is time to spread the word to friends, neighbors, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or anyone else with Pre-school age children who could benefit from touring our program! We know that a referral is the best advertising and can go a long way in helping someone make the decision of where to send their child. We want to welcome them to our school and show them around. Thank you for your help!

I want to say a very special thank you to all of you who have reached out to me with your prayers, a thoughtful card or a kind word of encouragement after my brother-in-law passed this last month. It really meant so much to know that so many of you are so caring! I feel very blessed to be a part of this great community of Love.

Sincerely,
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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! Some dates and times are to be determined, so stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!

- ❖ April 1, 2, 8, 9 5:30 p.m. First Player's Production of Mary Poppins Dinner Theater
- ❖ May 1 4:00 p.m. Singing TV Guy Mike Chamberlain will perform in Sanctuary



PW PRESBYTERY GATHERING — "Mission Matters Because God's People Matter" will be held Saturday, April 16th at Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N, Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, AZ. Registration forms available in PW Circles or in the church office. Cost \$10 includes continental breakfast and lunch.

2016-17 BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW — "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" will be held at Gilbert Presbyterian Church, 235 E. Guadalupe, Gilbert, AZ on Saturday, April 23rd. Plan to join us!



PW SPRING LUNCHEON
Will be Saturday, May 7th, at 11:30 a.m.
All church members and friends of the congregation are invited.
Please Come. Bring a salad to share.

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

MISSION HAPPENINGS

Welcome home Nancy Tordai! Nancy recently returned from another mission trip to Nepal. Stay tuned for her sharing about her experience in next month's La Palabra.

Four folks from FPC Mesa helped with the building project for Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, March 12th. The Red Hot Chilies's small group provided lunch. Thank you to all involved. We will have a second work day on Saturday, April 2nd. Please call Jeanne Partida at 602-292-8940 to volunteer.

Prayers and blessings for Ruth Robinson as, once again, she travels to do her work in the Philippines. We hope to be assembling and sending supplies to assist her efforts. Watch for announcements of what supplies are needed and when we will be assembling kits to send.

Thank you to the Presbyterian Women who hosted and supported the visit of Rachel Yates, Associate Director of Programs for Presbyterian World Mission! PW invited her to be our guest speaker for Women's Sunday, March 13th. What a terrific message we got about how Christ wants us to reflect Him in whatever we do, specifically being focused on developing and honoring relationships. A big thank you to Presbytery and Faith Presbyterian Church who also helped make Rachel's visit possible. Faith Presbyterian hosted her for a mission workshop on Saturday afternoon. Five churches were represented in attendance including FPC Mesa. Then on Sunday Rachel presented another workshop on "Nuts and Bolts of Exciting Your Congregation about Mission" at FPC Mesa. Three churches plus FPC were in attendance. Thank You, God, for teaching us through Rachel.

From March 28-April 1, 2016 Sue Eisenklam will join a group of 22 Presbyterian Women for a mission trip to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Center at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Little Rock, Arkansas. Participants will tour the facility, which is related to the PC(USA) and the Arkansas Presbytery; assemble Gifts of the Heart kits; receive PDA disaster response training; and visit Heifer Project's headquarters and the Clinton Library. They will stay at Ferncliff's Eco-Center, the largest straw-bale-walled structure in the U.S., which was built with funds from PW's Birthday Offering, as was the PDA Building.

The Lenten Season is also the season for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for supporting OGHS with wearing blue for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on February 21st and for wearing brown and green ribbons for Presbyterian Hunger Program and for Self-Development of People on February 28th and March 6th. As of March 14th, the total amount donated was \$2,150. We will continue to receive contributions through Easter week.

Summer Mission Trip plans are under way. If you haven't done so, save the dates July 7th-14th. We have begun to establish contacts with the Tseyl Bidaa Presbyterian Church of Chinle. What an exciting opportunity to develop a relationship with them! Watch for more information coming soon.

Blood Drive

Save the Date! The semi-annual blood drive is fast approaching! Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can sign to give blood two different ways:

- Sign up directly online at redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: FirstPresbyterianMesa.
- Sign up in Fellowship Hall between services.

If you have any questions, call Darlene Sitzler at 480-833-5203 or email: djmamajoy@gmail.com.



Vehicle Needed

If you have a serviceable vehicle, preferably an extended cab pick-up or SUV, that you would be willing to donate, a church member is in need of one. Contact Bob Gerlach or Jack Oliver.

April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Carol Holdhusen	2nd
Dan Sitzler	6th
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
Dalitso Sakala	12th
Allan Schultz	12th
Jo Wilson	12th
Amy Woods	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Diane Byerly	15th
Kelly Clark	15th
Hal Engman	15th
Robert Harding	15th
Ron Payton	15th
Krista Leichtman	16th
Debbie Rosen	16th
Dave Weaver	16th
David Frederick	19th
Mary Martin	19th
Don Wilson	19th
Emily Bero	23rd
Robert Brause-Crame	23rd

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.*

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Partida, Jeanne
602-292-8940
(phone number change only)



Many thanks for your love and concern for me when I was recovering from surgery. The workers did an excellent job keeping our food pantry open and running smoothly. Thanks be to God!
Love, Sandy Clark

Calendar Notes

April 1 & 2

Mary Poppins Dinner Theater

April 2

Habitat Build

April 3

Blood Drive

April 8 & 9

Mary Poppins Dinner Theater

April 11 & 12

Circles meet

April 13

WRAP Closing Banquet

April 16

Mary Poppins Cast Party
Youth to Feed My Starving Children

April 17

Commissions & Session meet

April 24

Youth Sunday
Monthly Food Drive

See calendar on website:

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