

La Palabra

May 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“When the disciples were increasing in number, many complained because some were being neglected. The twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to do other work. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves people of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and six others. They had these stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem. “

Acts 6:1-7 adapted

At our Annual Meeting in February we selected “from among [y]ourselves people of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint” as Deacons and Elders to serve the congregation. Mesa First Presbyterian Church will ordain and install new officers during worship on May 22nd. It’s a day of celebrating God and the gifts God gives people to serve God’s purposes.

Session has called a Congregational Meeting, if the way be clear, for May 15th immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. At that meeting, again, presuming we have received Presbytery approval, we will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Session recommends a nine person committee. The church Nominating Committee (Renita Jurgensen, Ellen Hickey, Steve Post, Janet Verch, Miki Newbry and Mike Gerlach) will be contacting church members regarding their interest, willingness and capacity to serve. They will make every effort to ensure we have a good cross-section of the congregation. If you have a desire to serve, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is also still trying to fill vacancies for Deacons and Session. Please carefully and prayerfully consider serving God by serving your church.

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 summer choir schedule will begin next month. Where has the year gone? The first rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, June 8th, at 7:00 p.m. Copies of the complete summer choir schedule will be available beginning Sunday, May 29th, in the Church Office, Choir Room, and Information Kiosk. You may also follow the schedule at www.fpcmesa.org/worship/choir-schedule.

Thank you to the superb Mary Poppins Cast & Crew for our 20th Annual First Players Production. Thank you also to the congregation for supporting the First Players and our other FPC Artist Series events through your donations and faithful attendance!



Our FPC Fellowship Commission will present former Channel 3 Sports Anchor Mike Chamberlin, "The Singing TV Guy," on Sunday, May 1st, at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. The concert, "Love Songs of WWII," will include humor, inspiration, and possibly some snippets from his book "God Has A Sense Of Humor For Heaven's Sake," a family-friendly humorous book, which has been on the publishing company's Top Ten best seller list!

Mike has been singing as long as he's been talking. Musical parents influenced him at an early age, and by the time he was in grade school, he was already performing. By high school, he was entrenched in Rock 'N Roll music and signed by a record label. Mike's road to Rock 'N Roll stardom took a left-hand turn when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served a tour of duty in Viet Nam and then resumed a music career that led to a gig as a radio DJ and eventually into TV news anchoring. He has been performing professionally for almost 50 years and continues to perform for the 55+ communities in the West and Southwest. Join us in our Sanctuary on Sunday, May 1st, and invite others to join you for this special concert!

The annual Preschool Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, May 5th at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The congregation is invited to attend this always enjoyable musical event.

Don't miss this year's Salsa Challenge & Nachos Bar! The Fellowship Commission will welcome us to this much loved annual event. Mark your calendars for 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 22nd, in Fellowship Hall.

Coming Events

- Vacation Bible School, 6/20-23, 5:45-8:15 p.m.
- All-Church Mission Trip, 7/7-12

Humoresque

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

An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighbourhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared,

where Jerry had carved, "I love you, Sally." On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armoured car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money - fifty thousand dollars! Jerry said, "We've got to give it back." Sally said, "Finders keepers." She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic. The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighbourhood, looking for the money, and knocked on their door. "Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armoured car yesterday?" Sally said, "No." Jerry said, "She's lying. She hid it up in the attic." Sally said, "Don't believe him, he's getting senile." The agents turned to Jerry and began to question him. One said, "Tell us the story from the beginning." Jerry said, "Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday . . ." The first police officer turned to his partner and said, "Were outta here!" [from Dick Baird]

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Anita Ramsey
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Jennifer Martin
Youth Elder — Dylan Hickey

The Mission Study report was released and carefully read by the Discipleship Commission. The congregational conversations expressed the need to provide education as well as social activities that bring all ages of the congregation together. Following are the current Discipleship commission multigenerational opportunities:

- Wednesday WRAP – volunteers of all ages from the congregation are continually being sought to teach music or Bible study to the children of the church as well as be a table parent of the children. In addition all members of the church and community are invited each week to have dinner with us. There is an adult Bible study group to become involved in after the family style dinner.
- Sunday Sing a Long – each week at 10:25 the children and youth sing Christian songs under the tree on the playground. The adults of the congregation are invited to join in this multigenerational experience.
- The church preschool encourages volunteers, visitors and donors to engage with the youngest members and visitors of our preschool anytime or at their regular special events.
- Vacation Bible School is a 4-night summer camp in which volunteers are requested each year to engage in a multitude of fun ways with the attendees. This year there is also an adult Bible study track to complement the children's track.
- There are two church services each week that are open to children and adults of all ages to worship together.
- We are always welcoming volunteers for Sunday School and the Nursery as a way to engage one on one with the children of the church and the babies/toddlers.

Discipleship Commission meetings are monthly and always open to anyone. Please come and share your ideas or concerns so that we can better meet the needs of your family or the church as a whole.

Communication was a concern raised by the Congregational conversations. It was indicated that there is a need for developing more effective means of communication between the congregation and leadership of the church. The following is how programs of the church are currently being advertised:

- | | |
|---|---|
| *La Palabra | *church website |
| *weekly bulletins | *facebook |
| *verbal announcements during service | *signs on the street |
| *flyers and bulletin boards around church | *local newspaper |
| *sign up tables | *local radio stations |
| *Ministry Fair | *websites with community calendars |
| *direct mailings | *flyers to local school district & businesses |
| *emails | |

Please let us know if you have a more effective means or different ideas on how to communicate new programs and changes to existing programs. Also, please tell your friends about all of the wonderful activities and events occurring throughout the year! Thank you for your feedback and assistance!

Summer Sunday school begins for the children in preschool through sixth grade at the end of this month! Please plan to join us each week in Jackson B from 10:30 – 11:20 for games, crafts, snacks, lessons and much more!

Vacation Bible School 2016 is getting ready to kick off next month! This year we will have 3 tracks for the entire family to participate!

- Track 1: Expedition Norway VBS for children entering K-6th grade.
- Track 2: Teen Track for students entering 7th – 12th grade.
- Track 3: Adult Bible study track for parents, grandparents, single adults, newlyweds or any adult wanting to enjoy a 4 night intensive Bible study!



These three tracks allow our program to be a family VBS program! This also provides the opportunity for FPC to have a four night long multigenerational program! This program will be June 20 – June 23 from 5:45 – 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$15 for one person or \$45 for an entire family. Register now! Registration forms are available in the church office or on the church website. You can also register to attend VBS or volunteer at VBS from the website.

Would you like to sponsor a child, teen or adult to attend VBS this year? Please consider donating \$15 to cover the cost of attending for one person or \$45 to cover the cost of an entire family. We are eagerly anticipating a minimum of 50 registrations! Please contact Jasmine Couillard for more details or write a check notating 'VBS Sponsorship' on it.

Over the years Montlure Presbyterian camp has touched many, many lives. Some folks even tell stories of how they met their spouses at Montlure. More important are the stories of how many of the campers and volunteers have come to know our Lord Jesus through a deeper and more personal relationship during camp at Montlure. Summer camp registration is open for children entering 4th through 12th grade. Each FPC child is eligible for \$140 in scholarship to defray the cost of camp. Applications for scholarships are due 4 weeks prior to the start of camp.



Wow! This school year has flown by! It is hard to believe it is almost over. We have had a fantastic year together with 29 children enrolled! Let's celebrate this milestone during the **Teacher Appreciation Week coming up May 2-6**. This is a special week-long event to show our teachers how much we care. Please consider surprising them with a little note of encouragement, special gift or a good book for their summer reading pleasure.



Our **Annual Spring Fling will be on Thursday, May 5th, at 10:30 a.m.** We hope that you will join us as the children sing a few songs for their families. There will also be a family picnic after the program. The preschool will provide the sub-sandwiches and the families are asked to bring something to share. Hope to see you there!

Our **last day of school will be on Wednesday, May 18th**. We will re-open for our **30th Anniversary School Year on August 15th!** Mark you calendar to save the date for a Church-wide celebration event on September 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Don't forget: We are now enrolling for our Fall 2016 school year and need your help. Now is the time to think about putting your preschool child or grandchild into our high-quality preschool to get ready for kindergarten. Stop by the preschool office and pick up a registration packet today! Tours will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. during June and July this summer. Stop on by!

Thank you for all of the love, prayers and support that you continually show to us. It means so much, and we truly can feel the strength of your caring!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

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 trip!

Call to mission! Twenty to twenty-five young people and adults will travel to Chinle, Arizona from July 8-July 14, 2016. We will join in partnership with the Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church to put on Vacation Bible School together. We will likely be doing some painting as well. This is an opportunity to grow in Christ as we open our hearts and minds to beginning this relationship. We are in the process of reserving five camp spots. In addition to camping, we have reserved a block of four hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn. It is time to set your intention to be part of this experience. Please contact Sue Eisenklam at 480-993-6512 if you are interested to going.

Blood Drive

We had another successful blood drive. Twenty-one out of thirty-three who signed up actually showed up. There were six walk-ins for a total of twenty-seven donors. There were four double-red cell donors making a total of thirty-one units of blood. Thank you to those from our church who donated. The truth is most of the donors are non-church members who sign up directly through the Red Cross. Many people in our congregation gave blood for many years but no longer can. We encourage people to continue giving blood through American Red Cross or United Blood Services. After prayerful discussion, the mission commission has decided that our church will no longer host the blood drive.

Pentecost Special Offering

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. With the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual, but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible possible.

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is about helping young people begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Gifts to Pentecost Offering unite young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world. Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders. (reprinted from PCUSA)

Forty Percent of the Pentecost Offering remains with our own congregation to support ministries with children. Ten Percent of the Offering supports "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative. Twenty-five percent goes to support ministries with youth ages 12-18. And twenty-five percent goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) opportunities.

My trip to Nepal — Nancy Tordai

Nepali time is always frustrating to someone from the western world. This year was no different, however, as I think about it, they also worship for hours, hearing about God, singing, praying and praising our Lord. Sitting on the floor, no pews here.

Our hostess, Saru, for the last 10 years awakens at an early hour to pray before she gets her children ready for school. She fasts for days at a time, talking and listening for His word to her. She also takes time out of her day to feed us, arranges to get us where we need to go, never complaining. Since neither Pam nor myself speak any Nepali, we are definitely blessed.

During our time there, we planned and started a chicken farm, bought goats for four rural women that had been widowed, giving them as incentive not to sell the goats for a year in order to build up a herd, held a women's ministry in Saru's home, worked with Sher and Kalpana to complete projects at the children's home (uniforms, flooring, paying for a ceiling in the girl's room and purchasing flip



flops for all the children to use for inside the house.) Orchid Garden (an inner city children's school and daycare) also received mattresses, foam to insulate the floors and a sound system.



Oh, I almost forgot, we had three aftershocks that got us out of our beds. Very unsettling. Yes, after one year they are still having aftershocks—over 400 since the earthquake. Oh, and did I fail to mention that India closed their borders, long lines for fuel for cars, for cooking fuel and many other products that they need for everyday life was stopped. It was lifted about three weeks after I got there. This lasted for about six months. I am so impressed with how resilient the Nepali people are, they take each day as a gift and keep smiling.

It was a very rewarding trip and I am looking forward to the next one.

Nancy



MINISTRY

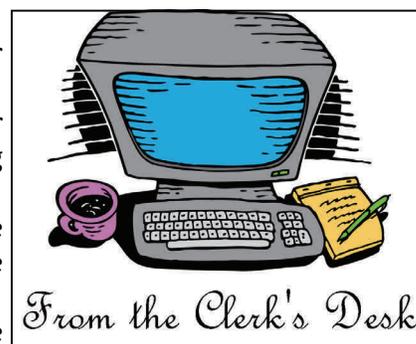
Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Allan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Kate Buck

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

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

Session Highlights

- Session asked Deacon-elect Carol Gerlach to create a structure for the Deacons to work together as a group.
- The Worship committee changed the order of worship for Communion Sundays to reduce distractions between preparing our hearts and minds for worship and Holy Communion.
- Session authorized Bryan Hickey and John-John Schlak to raise funds for their participation in Youth Triennium at Purdue University in Indiana.
- After contact with neighboring apartment property managers, the Mission Commission received permission to hold a garage sale in our parking lot on Saturday, April 30th, 8:00 a.m. to Noon. There will be no cost to neighborhood participants.
- Youth Sunday is April 24th. Session voted to hold a single service in the sanctuary for that week.
- Session created an AD Hoc Committee to coordinate our by-laws, written policies and procedures and compare them with our actual practices. The goal is to see where these contradict each other so adjustments can be made.



Stewardship Report

You might recall that we are in the middle of a capital campaign to raise enough money to replace the roof of our beautiful sanctuary. About a year ago we began this campaign.

The cost is estimated to be \$250,000 and, as of March 31st, we have about \$130,000 in the capital fund. This leaves only \$120,000 left to raise meaning we are more than halfway finished toward our goal.

I will be giving periodic updates during the campaign to keep you, the congregation, informed about our progress. If you would like to be a “roof supporter,” simply make a notation on your payment that it is for the capital campaign. I hope you will join with me in this important effort to maintain a roof over our heads.

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!

- ❖ Sunday, May 1 – Mike Chamberlin, Singing TV Guy, Sanctuary, 4:00pm concert time.
- ❖ Sunday, May 22 – Salsa Challenge in Fellowship Hall at 4:30 p.m. NACHOS Bar this year!
- ❖ Sunday, August 28 – Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Hall. Start time TBD. John Couillard's band, Vintage Rocket, will perform!
- ❖ Sunday, October 9 – Road Rally. Watch for details!
- ❖ November – Craft Fair, Date TBD.
- ❖ Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving meal. Watch for details!



PW SPRING LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 7
11:30 Meet and Greet
12:00 Lunch

Featuring home-grown talent

Salad Potluck

All members, friends, neighbors
of the congregation are invited.
(Psst . . . It's not just a ladies' affair.)

Please Come

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Sydney Skarphol	2nd
Raul Flores	4th
Bill Smith	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	6th
Fran Gunter	11th
George Wagner	12th
Connie Gailfus	13th
Gail Pearson	13th
Jon Lokensgard	14th
Sue Eisenklam	16th
Robert Martz	16th
Stella Bero	17th
Jennifer Smith	17th
Lisa Calhoun	18th
Mihret Gerlach	19th
Lynne Logan	21st
Robert Harbin	22nd
Graham Walker	22nd
Vivian Buck	23rd
Denise Worden	23rd
Lynne Harding	24th
Karen Eberhardt	25th
Yvonne Oliver	25th
Margaret Ryan	28th
Patricia Wyse	28th
John Frontone	29th
Jo Godfrey	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.



My family and I want to thank the members and staff of FPC for their cards, emails, phone calls and all the fabulous foods brought to my home for me and my family. A special thanks to Karyn Weaver and PW for the great reception after the Memorial. My deep appreciation also goes to those who donated to Chuck's charities. I will be forever grateful to everyone in the church.

Dale Gibson

Calendar Notes

May 1

Mike Chamberlin, Singing TV Guy

May 5

Preschool Spring Fling

May 7

PW Spring Luncheon

May 8

Mother's Day

May 9 & 10

Circles meet

May 15

Pentecost

Commissions & Session meet

May 22

Salsa Challenge

May 29

Monthly Food Drive

May 30

Memorial Day — Office Closed



IN MEMORIAM

Chuck Gibson — April 5, 2016



Happy Mother's Day!

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