

La Palabra

September 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

True Servanthood

... whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26b-28

The society in which we live has a tendency to cause us to look at ourselves first. For many of us, life is a series of actions with the focus of taking care of number one. We see this through the media and advertisements that we are bombarded with daily. This is not what Jesus taught us to do. The servanthood that counts in life is the servanthood that costs.

In Jesus’ example of washing the disciples’ feet, he took on one of the lowliest tasks. Foot washing, to say the least, is a very humbling experience. Through this example, Jesus, in a humble and quiet manner, powerfully teaches us to serve others unselfishly. Then he asked the disciples to do what he had done. Jesus didn’t simply tell us what to do. He provided the example: the Son of God humbling Himself to teach us this truth.

Serving others does not happen by accident, it is accomplished when we take on the form of Christ and become a servant. It happens when we do what Jesus calls us to do for and with those around us. Serving others requires us to take risks. We may be misunderstood and some may even make fun of us.

Many people want to sit in a place of honor and receive praise. To serve Jesus is a life of servanthood. It may not be a walk of praise, but it is a rewarding walk. Only with this walk can we truly see the hand of God at work. Are we willing to do what Jesus asks us? Are we willing to Love God, Follow Jesus and Serve in Spirit?

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

Fall is just around the corner, and we have so much to do and so little time. Our annual Hymnfest will be held during both services on Sunday, September 4th. At 9:00, the Hymnfest theme will be gospel music, and we'll be led in worship by Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir and vocalists Joan White and Brooks Newbry. In both services, we'll sing and hear stories about the great songs of our faith. Join us in worship, and bring your singing voices!

Fall choirs will begin this month. If you'd like to sing, ring, sign, or play an instrument, let me know! We'd love to have you join our ranks. Dei Gloriam is fresh off its performance at Disneyland, the Sanctuary Choir will soon be preparing for Christmas(!) and for January Presbytery, and Wednesdays will see the return of Wednesday WRAP and the remainder of our mid-week choirs. Plan to join us! The Sanctuary Choir would especially welcome additional singers. They've enjoyed a much-needed rest after a busy spring, which included a retreat to Sedona, a Choral Festival, a Holy Week cantata, and pit choir music for Mary Poppins. They're well rested and ready to sing and would love to have you join them!

Our resident brass band, Territorial Brass, will join us in worship on 9/11. In addition to solo music by the band, the Sanctuary Choir will be accompanied by the group in the anthem “One Faith, One Hope, One Lord.” Proclaimed as Arizona's Official Historical Brass Band, we'll be treated to “a musical voyage back to the golden era of town bands, with stirring renditions of original arrangements.” - ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION



Dinner and a Concert...for Free! We'll meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 25th, at 4:00 p.m., and we'll enjoy a potluck dinner and a concert by the 2016 International Senior Quartet Champions “High Priority,” featuring Dan Davenport! The Quartet includes Tenor Ray Estes, Lead Byron Bennett, Baritone Mark House, and Bass “Dan.” Formed in April of 2014, with only four rehearsals under their belts, High Priority won the AZ SENIORS QUARTET CHAMPIONSHIP of the BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY in May 2014, then in the October FAR WESTERN DISTRICT contest won SENIORS QUARTET honors. In January 2015 HP traveled to New Orleans to compete in the BHS INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET contest. To their elation, they came in 2nd place and received SILVER MEDALS. In October 2015 at the Fall Convention, High Priority was again chosen to represent the Far Western District at the BHS INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET

contest in Reno. On January 30, 2016, before a huge crowd at the Peppermill Resort, High Priority stole the show with their stunning renditions of Stormy Weather and Mean to Me and took top honors to become the 2016 INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET CHAMPION. High Priority has decades of combined Barbershop singing experience. They are excited and enthusiastic about the quartet and their achievements and look forward to many upcoming shows and performances, here at home and around the country.

Coming Events

- 10/2 World Communion Sunday
- 10/9 (Sunday) FPC Road Rally (TBA)
- 10/22 (Saturday) Mesa Make-a-Difference Day
- 10/23 (Sunday) Combined Worship in Pioneer Park, 10:00 a.m.
- 10/30 Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Humoresque

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

In the beginning, God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives. Then using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's and Krispy Kreme. And Satan said, “You want chocolate with that?” And man said, “Yes!” and woman said, “I'll have another with sprinkles.” And lo, they gained 10 pounds. And God created the

healthful yogurt that woman might keep the figure that man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane, and combined them. And woman went from size 2 to size 6. So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented Thousand-Island Dressing and garlic toast on the side. And man and woman unfastened their belts following the repast. God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried shrimp and catfish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof. God then brought forth running shoes so that his children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan came forth with a cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And man and woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and piled on the pounds. Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition. Then Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them and added copious quantities of salt. And man put on more pounds. God then gave lean beef so that man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and the 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then Lucifer said, "You want fries with that?" and man replied, "Yes! And super size 'em!" And Satan said "It is good." And man went into cardiac arrest. God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. And Satan created HMOs. [from Marj Burgan]

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 Rummler
Youth Elder — Gregg Gerlach

Wednesday WRAP will meet each week this month! Please join us from 5:00 — 7:00 p.m. for fellowship, games, music, dinner and Bible Study. Consider dressing up in our weekly themes for added fun and prizes! The nightly cost to join us for dinner has been lowered this year – to only \$3 per person!

September 7th – Rock Star (Mexican Pile Ups)
September 14th – Pirate
September 21st – Back to the Bible (Guess What?!)
September 28th – Circus

(From Eliana Couillard when asked about Wednesday WRAP) "My favorite part of Wednesday WRAP is the dinner. I love when it is Mexican Pile Up **which you can also try and enjoy on September 7th**or Hawaiian dinner night. I also enjoy the Bible based games we play after dinner. I would like to invite more adults of the church to come and engage with us." Dinner starts at 5:45 in Fellowship Hall and everyone from church is invited to join us and engage with young and old fellow church friends! The very reasonable cost for dinner is only \$3 per person to drop in!

On October 15th there is a half day ministry conference being offered at a church in Tempe by Group publishing. This conference is geared towards those involved in children's and family ministry including Sunday School teachers, Wednesday WRAP volunteers and anyone else that is passionate about children. The morning will be filled with discovering the latest trends in children's ministry as well as deepening your relationship with Jesus so you can minister to children more clearly. If you are interested in attending Going Deeper with Jesus, please contact Jasmine Couillard.

The Present Word (Adult Sunday School)

This quarter considers a theme that is important biblically and theologically. The "*Sovereignty of God*" is a way of describing God's greatness and preeminence over all things in creation. It shapes us now and in the future to come. Our sessions reflect on the sovereignty of God as expressed in the book of Isaiah. These sessions will refresh, strengthen, and deepen your faith. They will provide guidance, and direction, and they will lead to praise and service of the One who "makes all things new" (Revelation 21:5)

We meet in the Parlor at 10:30 am, starting September 4th. Coffee, cookies, and stimulating discussion await your participation. See you there.

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

Peace and Global Witness Offering

It is once again time for one of the four annual special offerings as set forth by our denomination. This is the one we call Peace and Global Witness Offering. The theme this year is “Setting the table of Peace.” The offering will be highlighted in September during Minutes for Mission during our church service. It will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd.

Every day, we are witnesses to conflict. We read news stories of violence and supposedly irreparable divides. Angry rhetoric fills our airwaves, inboxes, and social media feeds. We see conflict tear apart communities, families, even people we know. Surrounded by this strife, it’s easy to see the world through a dark lens of discord. We may even come to share the doubt expressed in Psalm 78:19: “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”

Yet our faith tells us despite our doubts, sins, distrust, even anger, God not only sets a table but invites us to join it and partake in an abundance of peace.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering challenges us to look at the world not as a place where conflict is inevitable, but where Christ’s peace is possible. The programs supported by the Peace and Global Witness Offering help bring people tables of peace, justice, and reconciliation even in the wilderness of war, violence and division. In places of abiding conflict, the Peace and Global Offering supports the work of Presbyterian mission co-workers to bring together former enemies and begin healing spiritual wounds of war. In congregations closer to home, support from the Offering enables efforts to turn back the tide of gun violence that claims too many American lives. In other communities, it’s facilitating a transformative dialogue about the difficult subject of race to find new common ground. And everywhere, this Offering supports witness, because by sharing the abiding love and mercy of Christ, more people can find their way to a seat at God’s table.

Your support of the Peace and Global Witness Offering acknowledges that a wilderness of conflict may surround us, but we are not abandoned there. If we open our eyes to the possibilities of peace, we see God has set a table for anyone to take a seat. (Most of the content of this article was taken from PCUSA website.)

I Help Support

We have been very fortunate to have a wonderful person outside our church supply a meal on the third Sunday evening for the I Help program. Because of personal reasons, she can no longer do this. If you have a heart for the homeless and mission and love to cook, please contact Nancy Tordai, 602-321-7162.

Operation Christmas Child

It isn’t too soon to begin collecting items for your shoe box. Our small group has sponsored this project for 8 years and will be doing so again this year. The collection week is the 3rd week in November. Stay tuned for more information in the October La Palabra. —Jeanne Partida



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

The Nominating Committee will begin to meet this month in order to secure officers for the 2018-2019 positions. If you have any suggestions or would like to be considered, please contact one of the members of the committee. They are Michael Gerlach, Renita Jurgensen, Miki Newbry, Steve Post, Helen Thielke, Janet Verch, and Barbara Walker. Remember to pray for our committee as we begin our search.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2016

	Month		Year to Date 2016		Year to Date
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget +/-
INCOME	35,459	32,644	219,731	228,509	-8,778
EXPENSE	35,926	33,765	229,204	236,355	-7,151
DIFFERENCE	467		9,473		-1,627

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

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
 Cards (D) — Cindy Davenport
 Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
 Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
 Fellowship Deacon —
 Fellowship Deacon — Dale Gibson

Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Rummler
 Fellowship Deacon — Heidi Blincoe
 Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman

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, September 25th, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall — Potluck dinner hosted by the Fellowship Committee and the Deacons with concert presented by our Church Artist Series featuring the 2016 Senior gold Medalist Quartet “High Priority”
- ❖ Sunday, October 9th - Road Rally. Watch for details.
- ❖ Sunday, October 23rd - Worship in the Park. Watch for details.
- ❖ Saturday, November 12th - Craft Fair
- ❖ Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving meal. Watch for details.



Calling All Women! Come one, come all to our new 2016/2017 Bible study. This year’s study promises to be a spiritual growth opportunity. The study is: *Who is Jesus? What a difference a Lens Makes.* Throughout the study we will be challenged to open our hearts and minds to who

Jesus is to us personally. There are different circles meeting at different times and places. If one of those isn’t a fit for you and you have an idea about expanding by adding one to meet at a different time, please let us know. All women are welcome. Help us, help you to meet your needs. Circles will begin meeting the week of September 12th. Watch the bulletin for specifics. There will be a social to begin the study year on September 13th in the Choir Room from 6:00–7:00 p.m. Please plan to join us!

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Bryan Tryon	3rd
Ruth Rummmler	5th
Charlie Golden	7th
Diana Johnson	7th
Gregg Gerlach	10th
Gabe Homolya	11th
Suzanne Engman	13th
Rosalie Lowe	13th
Sam Smith	13th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Adam Williams	14th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Nuha Ghubril	17th
Bill Rummmler	17th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Helen Thielke	18th
David Tobey	18th
Rediet Gerlach	21st
Kyle Harding	21st
Henry Woodrum	21st
Paul Harding	22nd
Andrea Schultz	22nd
Richard Lowe	24th
Steve Post	25th
Susan Sylvia	25th
Sandra Clark	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Bev Goff	28th
Jeanette Chaney	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.



IN MEMORIAM

Jeannette Laurie — August 14, 2016



Calendar Notes

September 4

Hymnfest in both services

September 5

Labor Day — Office Closed

September 7

Sanctuary Choir begins

September 8

Dei Gloriam begins

September 12

Eve Circle
Deacons

September 13

Deborah, Lydia Rachel Circles
PW Social

September 17

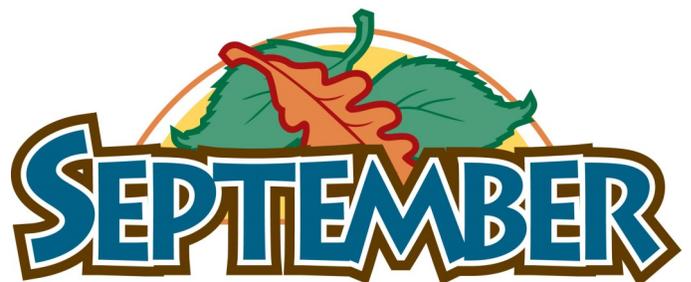
Preschool Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner

September 18

Commissions & Session meet

September 25

Monthly Food Drive
Deacons Potluck



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