

La Palabra

October 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

Jesus said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me. Luke 18:22

If there was one thing Jesus had on his mind, it was money. He seemed to think it was a matter of great spiritual significance. He seemed to link it to faith and justice and wholehearted discipleship. He seemed to imagine that generosity was a sure mark that we are to make in God’s own extravagantly generous image.

Some preachers I know don’t really like talking about giving or generosity. Maybe it’s because we’ve heard too much the complaint that “the church is always asking for money.” Or, maybe we are afraid we will offend someone. Or, maybe our own relationships with money are a little out of whack. I don’t know, but for whatever the reason we shy away from this most liberating of topics.

And it is liberating. Think of the word generosity itself. Doesn’t it just sound joyful and full of holy abandon? Free of the chains of fear and anxiety? Liberated from the constricting bonds of scarcity or greed. Study after study in brain science has found a direct link between generosity and overall happiness.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Henri Nouwen in his book, The Spirituality of Fundraising, writes, “From the perspective of the gospel, fundraising is not a response to a crisis. First and foremost, it is a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision and mission are so central to the life of God’s people that without vision we perish and without mission we lose our way. In fundraising we are declaring, “We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources God has given you – your energy, your prayers and your money, in this work to which God has called us.”

You might ask, What is the mission of First Presbyterian Church? It is:

As followers of Jesus we will love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our minds.

And we will love our neighbors as ourselves and serve them in the name of Christ.

Matthew 22:37, 39

Love God - Follow Jesus - Serve in Spirit

Come, people of God, let us invest wholeheartedly in the Kingdom of Heaven!

Blessings...Lois

INDEX

<i>A Message from Lois.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Mark’s Remarks (Worship)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Discipleship</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Mission.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Ministry.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Fellowship.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>October Birthdays</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Address Corrections.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Calendar.....</i>	<i>Insert</i>

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

World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 2nd. The observance of communion will include breads from around the world, and special music will be sung by One Voice, with the powerful anthem, “When God Ran.”

Plan to be a part of **Mesa Make-a-Difference Day** on Saturday, October 22nd. Our church will be responsible for the clearing of a canal path in west Mesa, near Riverview Mall. We’ll meet on-site, and details will be included in our Sunday worship bulletins.

October 23rd Worship in the Park at Pioneer Park - Combined Worship on Sunday, October 23rd will be held at 10:00 a.m. in our neighboring Pioneer Park. Join us for this festive celebration of worship, featuring Pastor Lois and an acoustic version of our HolyGrounds Praise Band. We’ll meet in the Northwest Ramada of Pioneer Park (526 E. Main St., Mesa), and be sure to bring a hat & sunscreen! Following worship, we’ll enjoy a BBQ provided by our Fellowship Commission. This year’s Stewardship Dedication will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 30. Celebration music will include a Concertato on "A Mighty Fortress", with the piano duo of Barbara Walker and Bea Towe, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and our Sanctuary Choir.

Auditions! On March 24, 25, 31, and April 1, the First Players will present their 21st annual theatrical production. Pending show licensing, production information will be included in the November *La Palabra*. Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 19th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. For audition information, contact Mark Ramsey, 480-964-8606, Ext. 103. Audition librettos and production schedules will be available in the Church Office on Sunday, November 6.

If you are interested in other upcoming musical activities, please take a moment to visit www.fpcmesa.org/worship. The site includes further information about our Artist Series and various music ministries.

Coming Events

- 11/6 Psalm Sunday
- 11/12 FPC Craft Fair
- 11/19 FPC Community Rummage Sale
- 11/20 Artist Series: High Priority Quartet
- 11/26 Decorating for Christmas & Carols by Candlelight

Humoresque

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

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, all of them between 10 and 12 years of age. The group surrounded a dog. Concerned lest the boys were hurting the dog, the clergyman went over and asked, "What are you doing with that dog?" One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighborhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog." Of course, the reverend was taken aback. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then launched into a ten-minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie," and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "Oh...All right, he won...give him the dog." [from Pastor Lois]

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

Wednesday WRAP Report:

Please join us at the beginning and end of this month for fellowship, games, music, dinner and Bible Study. We have classes for elementary students, junior high and high school students as well as adults! The themes for this month are:

October 5 – Birthday, dinner: Sandwiches

October 26 – Great Pumpkin, dinner: Pizza & Salad

(From Bryan Hickey when asked about Wednesday WRAP) "I like Wednesday WRAP because it allows me time with my friends. My favorite meals are when someone cooks a family recipe for us. I would like to see more adults from the church join us each week at this program." -Please consider spending at least dinner each week engaging with the youth at our church! This is such an easy opportunity to get fed and build deeper bonds with Christian friends young and old.

Men's Fellowship will begin meeting October 5th. All men are invited for a continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 a.m. followed by Bible study.

Grief Share: The holidays are a time when the difficult emotions of grief hit us even harder, and we need guidance and encouragement to make it through. Grieving people are facing new struggles as a result of the holidays and the Grief Share team would like to offer this opportunity for you to survive the Holidays.



This is a one-time seminar that will be presented on November 5th at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor. The program is built around three important components, which work together to help grieving people deal with the holiday season and hear the gospel message. There is a video, discussion and time for personal reflection. If you are interested in attending, please contact; Jeanne Partida 602-292-8940 or Ruth Rummeler 480-415-4925 to register. There is a \$10 fee to cover cost of the materials.



What a wonderful feeling in the air! The temperatures are starting to drop and the kids are really enjoying the change. As we begin October, we are reminded that change is not a bad thing but a necessary part of God's plan for us. With excitement, we want to announce a couple of changes that are happening at our little school. First, in partnership with the Maricopa County Head Start preschool program, we are making changes to the preschool playground. This includes removing some of the sand to make way for artificial turf and a new shade structure. They will also be resurfacing the rubberized surface underneath the play structure. They will be putting in a new concrete boarder to keep the remaining sand inside and the sand diggers will be moved. Wow! A great change indeed! It will be a huge relief when it is all completed. We want to thank them for helping to make this happen!

Additionally, we want to send out our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the FPC congregants for their generous contributions of school supplies that started our program off on the right path. We are so humbled and thankful for your generosity! The children are thoroughly enjoying them! Thank you!

Lastly, we want to give a huge shout out to all those that came to our preschool's 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 17th! It was so much fun and there were about 140 people who made it. We feel so blessed by the outpouring of donations of time, talent and gifts for our program. Thank you!

In Christ's Care,
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 Participants shared their experiences with the congregation on Sunday, September 11th. We wish to thank you all for your support in every way. We hope to go again next year and we invite you to start thinking about and planning on joining us.

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering will be collected when we come to the Table of Peace on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. Thank you for your prayers for peace, for our mission co-worker, Leslie Vogel, for your generous hearts and for your contributions.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS



Mesa Make a Difference Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd. We will be responsible for the clearing of a canal path in west Mesa, near Riverview Mall. Save the date and watch for information in the bulletin announcements.

Community Yard Sale (CYS) is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th, from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. We are beginning early to raise funds for next year's mission trip. Start cleaning out and gathering together anything you would like to give us to sell. Like the last CYS, we will have tables available to sign up for to sell your own items. We will also have tables available for neighborhood folks. Please call the church office to request a table.



Operation Christmas Child: Once again our small group is inviting anyone from the congregation that is interested in helping us in providing Christmas Shoeboxes to the needy children of the world. In 1993 Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse launched the Operation Christmas child program. Since then Samaritan's Purse has delivered shoe boxes to over 113 million children in over 109 countries worldwide. Since 2010, 3.3 million children have prayed to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through Operations Christmas Child's follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey.

This is our 8th year collecting shoe boxes, and we have set a goal of 100 boxes. Would you please help us reach that goal? We will have shoe boxes available sometime in late October, however, you can use a standard size shoe box. You have the choice of selecting a boy or girl in one of these three age categories: 2-4, 5-9, or 10- 14. Gift ideas are: toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy or lollipops (double bagged), socks, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights with extra batteries, t-shirts, caps, etc.

We are asking that the shoe box be returned to the church on or before November 13th as we need to deliver them to the collection point November 14th through 20th. For more information you may contact Jack and Yvonne Oliver 654-6348. Other members of the group are Hoffs, Hildenbrand/Lanstra, Jan Montgomery and Jeanne Partida.

MINISTRY

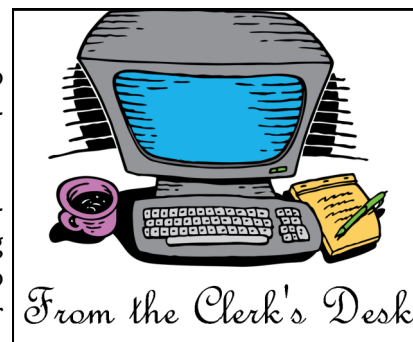
Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Allan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Kate Buck

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

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session voted to use our 25% of the World Communion offering to help fund our sponsored missionary Leslie Vogel in Guatemala as a mission partner.
- FPC received \$39172 from the estate of Virginia Fansher. Session decided to allocate the gift as follows: \$10K to the organ refurbishing fund, \$10K to the roof fund, \$5K to General Endowment, \$2,750 to Habitat for Humanity, and the remaining \$11,173 to our new pastor fund. The purpose of the new pastor fund is not salary, but rather moving expense and other related hiring expenses.
- The Organ will get its long awaited refurbishment in October. A team from Texas will do the job. We will be without the organ for only one Sunday. None of this financing is from the General Fund.
- We have approved the final procedures changes and released the AD Hoc Committee with great thanks! These last two items are procedures for driving youth off-campus and an alcohol, gambling and tobacco policy. Ad Hoc Members are: Carol Gerlach, Barbara Walker, Brent Gregory, Jan Montgomery and Jim Bruening.
- The following officers elect, having completed training were examined and welcomed by session. Ruling Elder: Bill Rummler. Deacons: Dan Sitzler and Ruth Rummler.
- Also from the Clerk: It was recently pointed out to me that we send out periodic information about pledges received, but nothing about time and talent. I know there are those working on a time and talent survey for the congregation, but want to mention someone who has been quietly working in the kitchen for at least 6 years. I have been attending WRAP for several years, but did not realize how much work is done by Jen Martin. She supervises the kitchen serving and clean-up for WRAP. I was especially happy to see how much she cares about keeping us healthy by scrupulously sanitizing the kitchen each week. I do not wish to downgrade any other of our many volunteers. Let's celebrate them all!



Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee is happy to inform you that we are busy reading Pastor Information Forms. The day after our Ministry Information Form was posted in Louisville, we received 25 applicant forms from their office. We have also received five self-referrals since then. So besides reading, we are also listening to sermons.

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!



- ❖ Saturday, October 8th - Road Rally. **Note the date change.** It was originally scheduled for Sunday, October 9th. Meet in Fellowship Hall. The road rally will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday, October 23rd - Worship in the Park. Worship will start at 10:00 a.m. Picnic will follow the service. Sign-up will start on October 2nd.
- ❖ Saturday, November 12th - Craft Fair
- ❖ Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving meal. Watch for details.

ROAD RALLY — OCTOBER 8th!



This will be an event full of great fun for all participants young and old. Why YES – it's also FREE! We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 8th, promptly at 3:00 p.m. Teams of 2 to 6 people per vehicle will be given a clue envelope, and sent on an ADVENTURE to solve clues/riddles and find the next stop on their journey around Mesa – where they will be given the next clue to locate the next stop, and so forth. There will be a set amount of time that the Road Rally "Course" should take to complete. The team coming closest to this established time (not too fast, not too slow) will WIN! The last "stop" will be a location where all teams can eat dinner, and share their "war stories" of the successes and travails they encountered navigating the course.

I promise you'll have fun participating in this event, and this is another GREAT event to bring non-churched friends to! PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR and don't MISS IT! Start gathering your team – the more the merrier! Team signups will start in September.



Triennial Presbyterian Synod Gathering is October 28-31, 2016 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale Arizona. The theme of this year's gathering is "Who is Jesus?" We are really blessed to have the author of this year's Bible study here as one of the speakers. The other two speakers are Kathy Reeves, who is a Mission Associate, Presbyterian Women Staff and Amy Poling Sutherlin who is the author of the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study, God's Promises. There will be worship, Bible Study, fellowship, music, meditation, workshops, free time and choir. Please see a circle leader for an application. You don't want to miss this!

October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Carter Buck	3rd
Antonio Rosario	4th
Irene Lenke	5th
June Gibbons	7th
Elinore Koch	7th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Sam Thielke	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Elizabeth Mathewson	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
Penelope Sitzler	16th
Fran Watson	16th
Brooklyn Bero	21st
Dan Reeves	23rd
George Montgomery	26th
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katherine McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInelly	30th
Chuck Michel	30th

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Robinson, Nate
480-579-5858
(Cell Phone)

Smith, Sean & Jennifer
1527 E. Fairfield
Mesa, AZ 85203

Calendar Notes

October 2

World Communion Sunday

October 8

Road Rally

October 10 & 11

Circles meet

October 16

Commissions & Session meet

October 22

Mesa Make-a-Difference Day

October 23

Worship @ Pioneer Park (10:00 a.m.)
BBQ to follow

October 30

Dedication Sunday
Monthly Food Drive

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.



See calendar on website:

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