

La Palabra

November 2016

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17

Our desire, as Christians, is to be a people of faith, living totally within the trust and confidence of God. Faith is defined as “... faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1). It is impossible to please God without faith, for it is by faith that we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We cannot live a holy life without exercising a continual faith in Jesus. He has brought us into a proper relationship with God and He stands by us as we stand by Him in faith.

The one who is righteous, by faith, shall live. Faith is the beginning and the end of a Christian’s life. Total faith and dependence upon God means abandoning all trust in our own resources and placing our total confidence in God for all the provisions of life. It means casting ourselves unreservedly on God and God’s mercy and laying hold of the promises of God for our daily strength and existence.

Faith is complete reliance on God and full obedience to God. It is only when we reach the place where we can truly say, “Lord, not my will, but Your will. My heart’s desire is to be the person You created me to be, living out Your plan for my life, not my plan.” As humans we sometimes fail to recognize that everything we are, everything we have, and everything we hope to be rests in the hands of God. Yet, faith grows as we learn daily dependence upon God. It is in this walk of faith that we experience the closeness and the joys of serving our Lord. It is here that we experience the real meaning of life. It is not about how much we can have, but about giving ourselves totally and unconditionally to God.

Examine your life today and ask God to draw you closer and make you the person of faith God has called you to be, for the righteous shall live by faith!

Blessings...Lois

INDEX

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

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

The Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present its annual organ marathon concert-fundraiser on Sunday, November 13th. The event will begin at 2:00 p.m. at two Valley locations, Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Phoenix and Victory Lutheran Church in Mesa. Proceeds go toward providing organ lessons for talented young pianists.

The First Players will present their 21st annual theatrical production on March 24, 25, 31, and April 1. The show will be **PETER PAN**. Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For audition information, please contact Mark Ramsey, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103. Audition librettos and production schedules will be available in the Church Office on Sunday, November 6th. **PETER PAN** is the show for the child in all of us who dreamed of soaring high and never growing up. It is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years. Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, a fierce Indian tribe, a band of bungling pirates and, of course, the villainous Captain Hook.

The International Senior Quartet Champions “High Priority” will return to FPC on Sunday, November 20th at 9:00 a.m. Join us in worship as they offer more rousing renditions of our sacred favorites. Also, on the 20th, you’ll not want to miss a musical medium like no other: 4 pianist at one piano! The group will play a specially composed Galop-marche for piano-8 hands. Also, also, that day, we’ll have a piano duet and a piano-organ duet, something for the entire family as we worship God together and celebrate the many sounds of music.

Be a part of this year’s “Carols by Candlelight!” The event will take place on Saturday, November 26th. We’ll meet in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. to hang Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, then we’ll enjoy a catered supper (5:30) followed by the singing of carols in our candlelit Sanctuary (6:00). Reservations are necessary for supper and song sheets! Please leave a message for Mark Ramsey in the Church Office by November 15th if you plan to attend.



The next time you are in Fellowship Hall, take time to enjoy our beautiful, new stage curtains. They are a beautiful match for the existing window curtains, and they are accented by new black border curtains and a smooth, new track!

Coming Events

- 12/11 (Sunday) Arizona Cantilena Chorale, Sanctuary, 4:00 p.m.
- 12/17 Music Sunday
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
- 12/25 Christmas Day Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- 1/1 New Year’s Day Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Humoresque

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

A friend of mine has two tickets for the 2017 Super bowl. They are box seats plus airfares and hotel accommodations. He didn't realize when he bought them that this is the same day as his wedding - so he can't go. If you're interested and want to go instead of him, it's at St. Peter's Church in New York City at 5:00 p.m. Her name is Donna. She will be the one in the white dress. [from Anita Ramsey]

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:

Wednesday WRAP is in full swing. If you haven't joined us yet this year... then this month is the perfect time! Our fun themes are:

November 2 – Armed Forces Day (Mexican Pile Ups)
November 9 – Masquerade (Multicultural dinner)
November 16 – Best of Disney (Guess What?! is for dinner)
November 30 – Royal Ball (Burgers & Dogs)

(From Victoria Main-Martin when asked about Wednesday WRAP) "I enjoy Wednesday WRAP because of the Fellowship. My favorite dinners are pizza night. I would like to personally invite the adults at church to join us each week." – Join us every Wednesday this month and make a new friend!

You are officially invited to join us on Wednesday nights for an adult Bible study at 6:15 in the Library. Our study this month is filled with personal examples and Biblical teaching. Unglued by Lysa TerKeurst will equip you to:

- Know with confidence how to resolve conflict in your important relationships.
- Find peace in your most difficult relationships as you learn to be honest but kind when offended.
- Identify what type of reactor you are and how to significantly improve your communication.
- Respond with no regrets by managing your tendencies to stuff, explode, or react somewhere in between.

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 9th at 6:30 p.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 at 602-292-8940 or Ruth Rummeler at 480-415-4925 to register. There is a \$10 fee to cover cost of the materials.

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

Three Huge Thank you's!

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering came to a total of \$1,594! Thank you so much of your usual generosity!



Mesa Make a Difference Day was Saturday, October 22nd. Thank you to all who participated. You did make a difference!

Nancy Tordai, thank you for all you have done to coordinate and build I Help at FPC Mesa for the last six years. It is with great sadness for FPC that Nancy has decided to step down from coordinating Sunday nights. We can't thank you enough and want you to know how much you are appreciated for the time, energy, and love you have given to this mission. An **I Help** Coordinator is needed starting in January. Please see Nancy Tordai for details about what all is involved.

Presbytery Connect and Share Mission Fair is on Saturday, November 19th, at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun Valley. It is being held in conjunction with the Presbytery meeting that morning. The fair is an opportunity to see what others in Grand Canyon Presbytery are doing in the area of mission and to share what we at FPC are doing and how we would invite others to help us.

Christmas shopping: Do you ever get tired of just buying more stuff for someone or you have to buy a gift for someone who has everything they want? Well, if so, here is a great gift idea! Check out the new 2016-2017 Presbyterian Giving Catalog. You can find them on the kiosk. You can buy livestock, help with water issues, invest in agricultural endeavors, provide kits and tools, support education, support youth and young adult projects or help with relief and assistance. Give one of these gifts in the special someone's name and make a difference at the same time.



Christmas Angels: It is almost time for the Christmas tree filled with angels to go up in the back of the sanctuary. Watch for bulletin announcements for specific information.

Food pantry is needing cans of fruit, boxes of cereal and cans of meat items such as ravioli, stew, meat chili, **NOT** tuna fish. They have plenty of tuna fish already. Thank you for your continued support!

Time is quickly approaching! Shoe boxes are here and will be available between services on November 6th. Imagine the joy some girl or boy will feel when presented with a special box filled with goodies in the name Jesus Christ. Suggestions of items you might include are found on a pamphlet you will receive with your box or boxes. Please prayerfully consider helping us collect more boxes than last year. Our goal is 100. We are asking that the boxes be returned to the church by November 13th. We hope you will enjoy filling the boxes as much as our small group does. If you have any questions, please contact the Oliver's, Hoff's, Jan Montgomery, Hildenbrand/Lanstra or Jeanne Partida. Thank you and God Bless.



Do you need some “new” clothes? Do your kids or grandkids want some “new” toys? Have you been looking for a couple of “new” household appliances? Or, maybe you're looking to get rid of some last year's fashions? Tired of tripping over the kids' stuff? Need room on the counter for more spices and canisters and pictures of the family?

Come and participate in the **FPC Community Yard Sale** held in the church parking lot on **Saturday, November 19th, from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon**. You can shop the tables loaded with goodies from your brothers and sisters of FPC and the local community. If your house is loaded with stuff you don't want or need any longer, call the church office at 480-964-8606 and reserve a table to sell what you have. Either way, come out to the FPC Community Yard Sale to meet the neighbors, visit with your friends and maybe swap a treasure or two.



Contact the church office to reserve a table or to ask questions. This is one of the easiest ways to support your church family and the community that surrounds us. We are really looking forward to seeing you there.

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

Smile.amazon.com – If you buy anything on Amazon.com, you can help Mesa Presbyterian Ministries. Just log on to smile.amazon.com and register. It is a program set up to help various charities. They will donate 0.05% of your order to MPM. Every little bit helps! Thanks for your support. — Jack Oliver

For the tax year ending December 31, 2016, and future years the **TAX CREDIT** you will receive for your gifts to MPM will be \$400 filing singly, \$800 filing jointly (formerly \$200 and \$400). This credit will go on AZ 140, Form 321. This year MPM will assist over 200 of Mesa's Working Poor with their basic needs. Please give to this worthy cause. — Bob Gerlach



To our church family:

Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, cards of hope and acts of love during Laura's healing from a fall that broke her humerus bone in her arm and bruised her hip. She is out of her sling now and beginning physical therapy. Thanks to Dan and Linda Reeves and family for being there for us and getting a wheel chair (from the church) on the night of the accident and helping us get home. Thanks to Peter Eisenklam for help getting Laura to her doctor's appointment. Our church is a part of our extended family, and we couldn't make it without your love and support. Thanks be to God for answered prayer!

Jim and Laura Bruening

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 — Dan Sitzler
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, November 12th - Craft Fair
- ❖ Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving meal. Watch for details.
- ❖ January - Western Hoedown. No date set as of yet
- ❖ February - Chili Cook-off. No date set as of yet



Presbyterian Woman — Bake Sale at the All-Church Craft Fair Saturday, November 12th. We invite all women in PW, as well as members of the church family, to contribute HOME BAKED items to this sale. Bring your contribution to the kitchen between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Friday afternoon, November 11th, or bring it to the Craft Fair on Saturday morning.

YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES — Cookies, Brownies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Jams, Pickles, Candies
Proceeds will benefit PW mission projects. Cash donations will be gratefully accepted from members who are unable (or prefer not) to bake.

Circles meet:

- ❖ Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m., Parlor
- ❖ Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., members' homes
- ❖ Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, Parlor
- ❖ Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., Library

PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday, November 1st, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library.

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

We have receive and read 80 pastor information forms (PIF). Some of them are self-referrals, which means they have read our Ministry Information Form and contacted us directly. The majority of the PIF's come from Church Leadership Connection out of Louisville, Kentucky.

We have listened to sermons which you will agree is very important. We've narrowed the number of PIF's down to about eight we think would be a match for FPC and have contacted them to see if they would be willing to further explore a relationship with us. By the time you read this we will have begun the initial interview process.

We continue to meet weekly and ask that you please keep us in your prayers as we the search for our new pastor that God has chosen for FPC Mesa.

November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Steve Muth	2nd
Jane Potyka	2nd
Scot Logan	3rd
John Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
Charlene Raikes	7th
Heidi Blincoe	8th
Vivian Hoyman	8th
Amanda Hoyman	11th
William Letizia	11th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Pam Kurtz	20th
Martha Bienert	21st
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Mary Beth McMichael	23rd
Gail Wylie	23rd
Lois Hildenbrand	26th
Flinn Lund	26th
John John Schlak	26th
Karyn Weaver	27th
Jade Fleener	29th
Bob Free	29th
Arlene Wagner	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.



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Kambak, Jackie
480-205-8229

Calendar Notes

November 8 & 14

Circles meet

November 12

Craft Fair

November 19

Community Yard Sale
Play Auditions

November 20

Commissions & Session meet

November 23

Preschool Feast

November 24

Thanksgiving Day
(Office Closed 11/24 & 11/25)

November 26

Carols by Candlelight (Sanctuary/FH Decorating)

November 27

Monthly Food Drive



IN MEMORIAM

Marlene Verch — October 6, 2016
Hank Klassen — October 14, 2016



See calendar on website:

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

First Presbyterian Church

161 North Mesa Drive

Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone: 480-964-8606

E-mail: pubs@fpcmesa.org

Website: www.fpcmesa.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

Lois Hildenbrand, Pastor

Mark D. Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

Jasmine Couillard, Christian Education Director

Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications

Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor

Kathe Patchin, Bookkeeper

Anita Ramsey, Youth Director

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus