

La Palabra

January 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

Transforming Resolutions

Jesus said, "...I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." John 6:38

Many of us see the New Year as an opportunity to transform our lives by making New Year Resolutions. As Christians, the idea of transformation is a compelling resolution as all of us are called to become more and more Christ-like.

Here are four steps involved in being transformed. We must first realize we are not our own and that we have been bought and paid for with a price which we could not pay. With that in mind, we are to be slaves to our Lord and Savior. The only rights and privileges we have are those in Christ, which gives us access to God's abundant life. In John 6:38 we see that Jesus did not come to do His own will, but to do the will of God. Our first stage in the transformation and growth process is to come to the realization that we are not to do our own will, but only God's will. As a matter of fact, our will must decrease and God's will and plans must increase. We seek Christ and His Kingdom first then everything else will be added.

The second step requires us to be in relationship with our Lord where our doing is based on God's direction for our lives and what God has called us to do. In our transformation we begin to reach the place where we hear Jesus' voice and move in harmony with Him.

Taking the Word of God to the world, to those who are hurting and those in need of hearing the Good News is the third step. How could it be that we love our neighbor as ourselves and NOT share with them the transforming love of Christ our savior?

When we come to the place where we are willing for everything about us to die off so that everything about Jesus can be perfected in us, is the fourth step. My goal, and I hope yours too, is to reach a place where we say with our hearts, "Lord, I give my life to You to be used according to Your will. I only have one desire and that is for You to accomplish Your will in me. Lord, by Your Spirit, mold me according to Your will. Break me in the areas that need to be broken and remold me as the potter would mold a new creation. I truly want Your perfected will in my life and nothing else."

Believe me; I realize this process is not an easy one. Like you, I regularly go through that breaking process. But, oh how I thank God for finding me worthy to be broken! Are you willing to be broken and perfected for the cause of Christ so others may see Christ in you, be drawn to Christ and give their lives to Christ that still more may be transformed?

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

The First Players invite you to their 21st annual production, *Peter Pan*, this March/April! Our *Peter Pan* production cast will feature Isobel Letizia as “Peter Pan,” Tanya Snitzer as “Wendy,” Brooks Newbry as “Captain Hook,” and John Couillard as “Smee,” also showcasing Carter and Vivian Buck, Evie Couillard, Melody Blinks, Dave and Renita Jurgensen, Karen Rudin, and Flinn Lund, among others! Tickets are already on sale online at fpcmesa.org, and they will be available in the Church Office beginning March 1st.



Our January 29th prelude will consist of a suite from Gustav Holst’s “The Planets.” All are invited to arrive at 9:00 a.m. on that day to hear this great work! Holst composed the Suite in the early 20th century, and each movement is named after a planet of our solar system. The music is ethereal, grandiose, haunting, and spirited as reflected in Holst’s very specific interpretations of the planets.

Also on January 29th, the Grand Canyon University’s “Critical Mass” ensemble will lead our morning worship music. Critical Mass is an outstanding vocal ensemble and is an outreach arm of the GCU music program. The group offers new, fresh arrangements of classic and contemporary sacred music.

Our daughter, Tricia, is a member of Critical Mass!

Soprano Marcia Whitehead will return to offer special music for worship on Sunday, February 19th. Marcia’s ministry, “Embraced By God – Sometimes The Journey Is The Destination” is an honest reflection on the highs, the lows, the heartaches, the brokenness and the triumphs of taking a risk and following a calling from God. “Embraced By God” tells the story of Marcia’s pursuit of her calling to sing, including some unexpected turns as her dream of a professional career in music detours and finds her living a life she would never have imagined. You will be challenged, encouraged, and inspired by this multi-media worship experience as Marcia shares her journey of faith and how her dreams of success are redefined and reshaped as she learns to lean into and accept the embrace of God.

Coming Events

- 3/24,25,31;4/1 First Players’ “Peter Pan” Dinner-Theaters
- 4/14 Good Friday, Dale Wood’s A Service of Darkness
- 5/7 Stephanie Ball & Tom Sitzler, “Animal Art Songs”

Humoresque

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

Two buddies were out for a Saturday stroll. One had a Doberman and the other had a Chihuahua. As they sauntered down the street, the guy with the Doberman said to his friend, "Let's go over to that restaurant and get something to drink." The guy with the Chihuahua said, "We can't go in there. We've got dogs with us." The one with the Doberman said, "Just follow my lead." They walked over to the restaurant and the guy with the Doberman put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk into the restaurant. The waiter at the door said, "Sorry, Mac, no pets allowed." The man with the Doberman said, "You don't understand. This is my Seeing-Eye dog." The waiter said, "A Doberman Pinscher?" The man said, "Yes, they're using them now. They're very good." The waiter said, "OK then, come on in." The buddy with the Chihuahua figured he'd try it too so he put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk into the restaurant. He knew his story would be a bit more unbelievable. Once again the waiter said, "Sorry, pal, no pets allowed." The man with the Chihuahua said, "You don't understand. This is my Seeing-Eye dog." The waiter said, "A Chihuahua?" The man with the Chihuahua said, "A Chihuahua?!? A Chihuahua?!? They gave me a Chihuahua??"

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 Rummier
Youth Elder — Gregg Gerlach

WRAP Report:

Wednesday WRAP allows us to gather at church and talk and eat and study together. We meet each week from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The themes for January are:

January 4 – Camping (Pizza & Salad)
January 11 – Beach Party (Mexican Pile Ups)
January 18 – Olympics (Multicultural meal)
January 25 – Tie Dye (Guess What?!)

(From Will Snitzer when asked about Wednesday WRAP) "My favorite part of Wednesday WRAP is having a good time with my friends. The best dinner night is Mexican Piles ups. I want to highly recommend others to try Wednesday WRAP this year if they haven't been before." (And you can try the Mexican Pile Ups on January 11th!)

Happy New Year from our little Preschool! We hope that you and your family were able to celebrate the grace of our Lord's birth together. It has been a beautiful time of year to share our joy with you and the families of the preschool. We were able to bring Mrs. Claus in to read the story of Jesus' birth to the children during our chapel time. The kids really enjoyed that!

We would like to say thank you to Pastor Lois for all that she has done for our Preschool! We love what she brings to this community. She has been a huge advocate for this program and the ministry of the preschool. We look forward to celebrating Chapel together with her and the children for the remainder of the school year. Thank you, Pastor Lois!

This month we will be learning about Outer Space, Transportation, Community Helpers and the Ocean. We will welcome Officer Camberg into the classroom to talk about bike safety and show us her uniform gear. We will also be taking a walking field trip to tour the fire station. If you would like to come and share how you contribute to the community, please let us know. We would love to have you as our guests.

We want to thank all of the families for their sweet gift that helped to make the teachers feel special. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful community here at FPC. We love being with all of you!

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

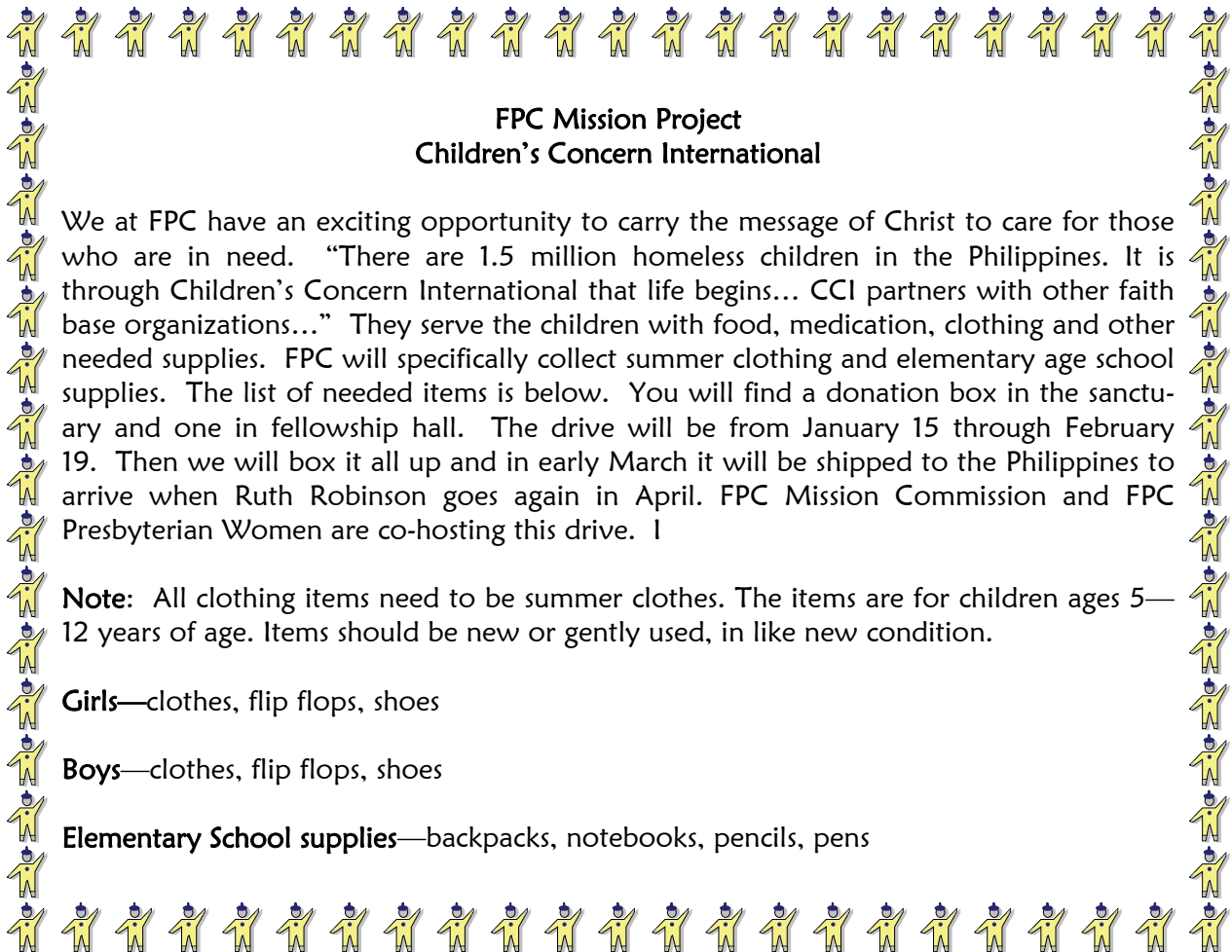
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Darlene Sitzler
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

Christmas Angels: Thank you for your participation in our annual Christmas Angel Tree. You are each such a blessing!

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

I-Help has two new co-coordinators!!! Thank you Janet Verch and Renita Jurgeson for responding to the call to serve in this way. Thank you, as well, Lora Vitale for being the new Prayer partner for the ladies!

FPC Mission Project: The Mission commission is joining with Presbyterian Women to host an FPC Mission Drive to collect needed items to send to children in the Philippines through the organization, Children's Concerns International. This is the organization that Ruth Robinson established. See below for a list of all the needed items and what to do with them.



FPC Mission Project
Children's Concern International

We at FPC have an exciting opportunity to carry the message of Christ to care for those who are in need. "There are 1.5 million homeless children in the Philippines. It is through Children's Concern International that life begins... CCI partners with other faith base organizations..." They serve the children with food, medication, clothing and other needed supplies. FPC will specifically collect summer clothing and elementary age school supplies. The list of needed items is below. You will find a donation box in the sanctuary and one in fellowship hall. The drive will be from January 15 through February 19. Then we will box it all up and in early March it will be shipped to the Philippines to arrive when Ruth Robinson goes again in April. FPC Mission Commission and FPC Presbyterian Women are co-hosting this drive. I

Note: All clothing items need to be summer clothes. The items are for children ages 5—12 years of age. Items should be new or gently used, in like new condition.

Girls—clothes, flip flops, shoes

Boys—clothes, flip flops, shoes

Elementary School supplies—backpacks, notebooks, pencils, pens

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

CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done! A bit more than two years ago Session, with great encouragement from Finance Chair Dave Frederick, came to you to begin a fund-raising campaign for a new roof on the sanctuary. Our initial ‘guesstimate’ of the cost was \$250,000. Of that, through your generosity, we raised over \$169,000 in about a two-year span. We have since secured a firm bid with a good, reputable company for \$156,000. By the grace of God, this congregation set about the challenging plan to replace our sanctuary roof in order to protect our infrastructure and we succeeded! You will see progress soon. Praise be to God!
 — Pastor Lois

A lot is happening at FPC! We have signed a contract with a roofing contractor for our new steel roof that has the appearance of tile. The color, Sequoia Red, is similar to the color of our existing tile roof and compatible with other roof and building trim. The contract is for \$155,196.18, which is considerably less than our original estimate of \$250,000! Allan Schultz, our current property elder and corporation president, has been instrumental in making this project happen. He is a tireless worker and dedicated to the many responsibilities of his position. Allan, Bill Lents, John Peterson (aka Dave's Crew) have made many improvements (big and small) to our buildings and campus. I know I speak for everyone in thanking them for their faithfulness and weekly commitment to keep our campus looking so great.

Our Stewardship Campaign has gone very well with estimates of giving running well ahead of 2016. It appears that the narrative budget format was well received.

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) has a new President - Jack Oliver. MPM's Board of Directors will be making other staff changes and additions in the near future.

— Bob Gerlach, Stewardship and Finance Elder

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2016

	Month		Year to Date 2016		Year to Date
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget +/-
INCOME	37,318	32,644	338,887	359,084	-20,197
EXPENSE	29,327	33,765	359,897	371,583	-11,686
DIFFERENCE	7,991		-21,010		-8,511

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

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare you will learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. Please join this seminar beginning on Wednesday, January 11th, at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. You are welcome to come to dinner at 5:30 (extra fee) in Fellowship Hall. There is a \$20 fee to cover the cost of the workbook and supplies. Each week features video interviews with counselors, grief experts and people like you, who have experienced a loved one's death. This seminar will offer practical suggestions and reassurances as well as time for discussion and sharing. Please contact Jeanne Partida 602-292-8940 or Ruth Rummier 480-415-4925 for any additional information or if you are interested in attending.



FELLOWSHIP

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

Transportation (D) — Doug McInnelly
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

Keep an eye out for more information on these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! Make plans to attend and bring a friend!

- ❖ January 21st - Western Hoedown. BBQ dinner will start at 5:00 p.m. with the Hoedown starting at 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ February 26th - Chili Cook-off will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. The cook-off will be from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. with the meeting being held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.



FPC Mission Project—Presbyterian Women and FPC are joining with the Mission Commission on a Mission Drive to collect needed items to send to children in the Philippines through the organization, Children's Concerns International. This is the organization that Ruth Robinson established. Please see the article in this newsletter with the list of all the needed items and what to do with them.

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

The Next PW Coordinating Team meeting will be Tuesday, January 3rd, at 1:00 p.m. in the library.

YOU ARE INVITED! The Presbyteries of the Grand Canyon and de Cristo will be meeting at FPC on Friday and Saturday, January 27th and 28th. The meeting will begin on Friday at 3:00 p.m. and a dinner will be served at 5:30 (\$10.00). Another meeting will follow the meal. On Saturday, the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and a worship service will begin at 9:15. The service will include our music groups and specialty musical selections will be featured. The Celebration of the Lord's Supper will be observed. There will be a business meeting following worship until approximately 11:30 a.m.

*You are invited to sit in on any of the meetings and you definitely won't want to miss this special worship service. Since we are hosting this event, we will need persons to assist with various things going on during this two day meeting. If you can help in any way, we would appreciate you volunteering. Please call the office and leave your name. You will be contacted for some special service.

January Birthdays



<i>Stephanie Gerlach</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Jenna Towe</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Elaine Weatherford</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Ryan Posthumus</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Alyene Trimble</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Taylor Skarphol</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Miron Webster</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Joan Still-Woods</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Nate Robinson</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Kelly Woods</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Susan Logan</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Stan Snitzer</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Jan Montgomery</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Dan Davenport</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Helen Letizia</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Sara McWhorter</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Bill Anderson</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Alice Schlak</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Shelley Cronenberg</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Bea Towe</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Ashlyn Newbry</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Alma Oberly</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Gwendolyn Sitzler</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>David Jurgensen</i>	<i>29th</i>

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.*

I-Help Needs: New bath towels and washcloths, new twin-size sheets, and pillows. Thank you for all you've given in the past.

Calendar Notes

January 1

New Year's Day
One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

January 2

Office Closed

January 4

WRAP returns

January 9 & 10

Circles meet

January 15

Commissions & Session met

January 21

Western Hoedown

January 22

Prayer Walk

January 28 & 29

Combined Presbytery Meeting at FPC

January 29

Monthly Food Drive

Report from the PNC

Your Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work even during the holiday season. With Session approval, we have made a change in the minimum suggested salary. In addition, with the recommendation from the PCUSA, we changed the number of years of experience. We have received another group of 25 Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). This makes a total of 109, and we are now studying them in order to find ones that meet your criteria. We continue to pray for guidance in order to identify the person God has planned to lead FPC in the coming years. After having interviewed some candidates by skype, we find some have taken another call or together we felt it was not a good match. We appreciate your constant prayers for the work we are doing.

See calendar on website:

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

LA PALABRA

A publication for members and friends, published monthly.

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

Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

Lois Hildenbrand, Pastor

Mark 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