

La Palabra

April 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

Always Moving Forward

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2

In Christian living we are always to be moving forward. Every day has the potential to be a day of growth and advancement in our Lord Jesus Christ. There is only one direction from birth to Heaven – forward. There are no “going back” days. Even in times of rest we are resting to regenerate and grow in advancing our spirit. If we live on the same plane day after day, our vision becomes weak and we lose our vitality to advance. This is a dangerous place to be. Some might ask, “What’s wrong with contentment?” But that’s not contentment. It’s complacency.

The Scriptures record God’s peoples’ greatest advances and most difficult times. It is often not the easy times, but the hard times when God’s glory descends. God calls us to be moving forward during times of testing and trials. As a matter of fact, God often uses these times to make us into what God has called us to be. Reconstruction in our lives often happens during difficult times. These are beneficial times of growth. We’ve heard of growing pains, right? It is the discomfort of moving forward, of ‘growing up,’ in Christ.

God does not call us to sit on the sidelines. God calls us to action. Yes, we get stymied along the way, and the path may get so difficult that we think there is no hope. But that’s just the time to turn our eyes toward Jesus and watch as God makes us the person we need to be for that day and that hour. That is when we have something to share about the life changing power of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, James 1:2 says that we are to count it all joy. We are in a perfect place when we have done all that we can do and we must look to God for the answer. If we will allow it, God will mold us and make us into the image of Christ.

Are you going through difficult times? Are you ready to take a step in faith and allow God to take you to a higher plane? Set your eyes upon Jesus and move forward!

My prayer for you individually and as a congregation is that you will be what God has called you to be and you will be willing to keep your eyes upon Jesus, even in the tough times.

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*, which will have its final performance on Saturday, April 1st. Our *Peter Pan* production cast features Isobel Letizia as “Peter Pan,” Tanya Snitzer as “Wendy,” Brooks Newbry as “Captain Hook,” and John Couillard as “Smee,” and they are joined by another star-studded cast of First Players! The dinner menu will include Porcupine Meatballs & Rice, Salad, Green Beans, and Strawberry Short Cake (Gluten-Free: Strawberries & Ice Cream), Garlic Bread, and Drinks. Tickets are available at www.fpcmesa.org and in the Church Office.

“Music for a Sunday Afternoon” will be presented on Sunday, April 2nd, at Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church (1565 E. Warner Rd., Tempe) at 3:00 p.m. The concert is a scholarship fundraiser presented by the Phoenix Area Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity. Featured artists will include Organist Mark Ramsey and Pianists Barb Walker, Bea Towe, and Alice Edwards. Tickets will be available at the door: \$10 general admission, \$5 students, \$25 family (parents & children).

Worship in the Park, April 9 (Sunday), 10:00 a.m.

Northwest Ramada of Pioneer Park (526 E. Main St., Mesa)

Bring: hat & sunscreen!

A Seder Celebration will be offered on Maundy Thursday, April 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate with family and fun, scripture and singing! The Passover Seder might be called the Jewish Thanksgiving. It is a special time of remembrance of the mighty act of God to deliver the nation of Israel from slavery and release them for eventual return to the Promised Land.

The Sanctuary Choir will present Dale Wood’s Service of Darkness on Good Friday, April 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. The Service offers musical meditations on the seven last words of Christ from the cross. The work commemorates the suffering and death of Christ and is based on the ancient Tenebrae. Dating from the 8th century, Tenebrae was originally celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week. It represented the darkness that fell over the earth as the Son of God was crucified. Candles will be used to symbolize Christ’s gift of life as the Light of the World.

Coming Events

- Artist Series: 5/7 Stephanie Ball & Tom Sitzler, "Animal Art Songs," 4:00 p.m.

Humoresque

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

Husband: My wife is missing. She went shopping yesterday and has not been home! Sheriff: Height? Husband: I'm not sure. A little over five-feet tall. Sheriff: Weight? Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really fat. Sheriff: Color of eyes? Husband: Sort of brown, I think. Never really noticed. Sheriff: Color of hair? Husband: Changes a couple times a year. Maybe dark brown now. I can't remember. Sheriff: What was she wearing? Husband: Could have been pants, or maybe a skirt, or shorts. I don't know exactly. Sheriff: What kind of car did she go in? Husband: She went in my truck. Sheriff: What kind of truck was it? Husband: A 2016 pearl white Ram Limited 4x4 with 6.4l Hemi V8 engine ordered with the Ram Box bar and fridge option, LED lighting, back-up and front camera, Moose hide leather heated and cooled seats, climate controlled air conditioning. It has a custom matching white cover for the bed, Weather Tech floor mats. Trailing package with gold hitch, sunroof, DVD with full GPS navigation, satellite radio, Cobra 75 WX ST 40-channel CB radio, six cup holders, 3 USB port, and 4 power outlets. I added special alloy wheels and off-road Toyo tires. It has custom retracting running boards and under-glow wheel well lighting. At this point the husband started choking up. Sheriff: Take it easy, sir. We'll find your truck! [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 Rummler
Youth Elder — Gregg Gerlach

This is your last opportunity to join us for Wednesday WRAP this year! Please join us for the following themes:

April 5 – Hollywood Night (Burgers & Dogs)

April 12 – Hawaiian Luau (Sandwiches)

April 19 – Closing Banquet (Exciting Details to be announced soon!!)

An Adult Bible study group meets on Wednesday nights at 6:15 in the church library. This month the study is - Vanishing Grace, a study where Philip Yancey shows the desperate need our world has for grace, and how Christians can truly make the gospel good news again. In this video-based small group Bible study, participants will explore what kind of news is good to a culture that thinks it has rejected the Christian version. Wading deep into the transformative power of grace, we will hear illuminating stories of how faith can be expressed in ways that disarm even the most cynical.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to the FPC Easter Eggstravaganza! FPC will be celebrating the risen Christ at three different worship services (6:00, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.) on Easter Sunday, April 16th, plus we will be having an Easter Egg hunt at 10:25 for toddlers through sixth graders! There will be Sunday School classes immediately following for all students ages 3 – adult!

Are your children planning to attend Montlure camp this summer? Don't forget to complete a campership request form (available in the church office) and submit it at least two weeks prior to the start of camp for \$140 off the cost of camp fees!

See what all the BUZZ is about at Vacation Bible School 2017. Save the date for June 5th – 9th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All children age 5 – 13 are invited and anyone over the age of 13 (adults included) would have a great time volunteering! Each day at Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids travel through rotations that reinforce relevant Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures.





Spring has sprung at the Preschool, and we are learning about plants, pond life and Easter. It has been fun to watch the children grow like little flowers and discover the potential that God has in store for them! We will be looking ahead to Easter and the resurrection of our Lord. Please join us each week at our family chapel time on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Registration is underway for the 2018 school year, and we welcome anyone who would like to tour our school or stop by for a visit. The registration fee is \$75 until May 1st, but then it will go up to \$85. You won't want to miss out on our early-bird registration rate! Please consider sharing our preschool information with friends and families who have preschool age children who are potty-trained. Thank you!

As we look ahead to the end of the school year, please mark your calendar for May 4th at 10:30 a.m. We will be hosting the community and preschool families as the children sing songs for their parents at our annual Spring Fling. We will then have a picnic on our playground for all to enjoy. We hope you can make it!

Preschool wish list: 3 oz. dixie cups, paper towels, plastic spoons, big bottles of bubbles.

Blessings to all and a very special Easter to you!
Shiloh Murillo, Director

Some of you may remember the Sankey Family—James & Joyce and their children, Steven, Stewart and Elizabeth, who were members here from 1987 to 1996. Their son, Steven, was recently ordained as a pastor in PC (USA). Joyce sent a copy of the bulletin from his ordination service, and what was on the back was very interesting. It was a copy of the baptismal banner that was given at FPC Mesa to all baptized children during that time. Here is what Steven wrote:

“Over the years as I looked forward to working in ministry, I did not appreciate the number of crafts I would be doing, nor how much I would enjoy them. I have a new appreciation for



not only the crafts I did growing up in the church but realizing all of the people it takes to plan the curriculum, prepare a lesson, and supervise children in the creation. When I was home in Iowa last fall, I was going through an old box of things from my childhood and I found this felt banner. It was presented to my family when I was baptized at First Presbyterian Church of Mesa, Arizona, on May 7, 1987. This banner hangs in my office and reminds me that accepting a call to work with children and youth is the continuation of a journey that began at my baptism.”



Congratulations to Steven on the beginning of his life journey!

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

One Great Hour of Sharing – Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. OGHS, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People. Offerings will be accepted throughout Lent.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Summer 2017 Mission Trip – Save the dates for June 25th- June 30th. We will return to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto to continue to build our relationship with the folks there and to co-facilitate Vacation Bible School. This is a trip for anyone interested — young and older. The planning team has begun the work of putting this trip together. Look for applications and more information to be released soon!



Food Pantry - As always, your contributions are appreciated. Food Panty continues to need canned meats like ravioli and chili. However, there is no need for tuna at this time. There is also no need for cereal. United Food Bank has provided enough cereal for the next 5-6 months! Praise God! There is also a need for peanut butter. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

I Help is still in need of twin size sheets. They may also need volunteers for hosting and for laundry during the summer months. Please contact Janet Verch at 480-218-1357 or Renita Jurgensen at 480-898-8733 if interested in this opportunity to serve.



Dear FPC Family,

Thank you very much for the Christian love that you have expressed in your generosity by helping the ministry to the homeless, needy and poor children in the Philippines. Some of the 1.5 million homeless kids are living now at cemeteries, streets and highways. God loves them through you.

I truly appreciate your prayers for me as well before I leave for the Philippines. Pastor Lois is surely faithful in praying for me with her precious when she sees me leaving to extend a helping hand to the poor and needy.

William Carey, “Father of Modern Missions,” said, “Yonder in India is a gold mine. I will descend and dig, but you at home must hold the ropes.” Thank you for holding the ropes in prayer, in financial assistance and in providing other personal needs of these hungry children.

...”in as much as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40.

Lovingly in Christ,
Nate & Ruth Robinson for
CCI – Children’s Concern International

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!

- ◆ April 9th - Worship in the park at 10:00 AM with a BBQ afterwards. Will be held at Pioneer Park.
- ◆ April 23rd - Farewell party after the first service for Lois.
- ◆ June 11th - Salsa Challenge at 4PM in the Fellowship Hall



PW PRESBYTERY GATHERING—“Mission Matters Because God’s People Matter” will be held Saturday, April 1st, at First Presbyterian Church, Sun City, 12225 N. 103rd Ave, Sun City. Keynote speaker is Winnie Fritz, who will share her experiences from Midwest to Middle East.

2017-18 BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW—“Hebrews” will be held at Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church, 3535 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley on Saturday, May 6th, from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Plan to join us!



PW SPRING LUNCHEON

Will be Saturday, May 6th, at 12:00 p.m.

All church members and friends of the congregation are invited.
Please come. Bring a salad to share.

April Birthdays



Michael Gerlach	2nd
Carol Holdhusen	2nd
Dan Sitzler	6th
Susan Durand	8th
Jessica Reeves	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Tanya Snitzer	9th
Nina Jo Woods	11th
Allan Schultz	12th
Jo Wilson	12th
Amy Woods	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Diane Byerly	15th
Kelly Clark	15th
Hal Engman	15th
Robert Harding	15th
Ron Payton	15th
Deborah Rosen	16th
Dave Weaver	16th
David Frederick	19th
Mary Martin	19th
Don Wilson	19th
Joe Woods	24th
Chelsea Cronenberg	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.

Calendar Notes

April 1

Peter Pan Dinner Theater

April 2

Commissions & Session meet
(instead of Easter)

April 8

Peter Pan Cast Party

April 9

Palm Sunday
Worship @ Pioneer Park (BBQ to follow)

April 13

Maundy Thursday
Seder, Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

April 14

Good Friday — Office Closed
Service of Darkness, Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

April 16

Easter Sunday
Services at 6:00, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast after 6:00 service (Scouts)
Eggstravaganza at 10:25 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:30

April 23

Lois' last Sunday

April 30

Monthly Food Drive
Youth Sunday

Editor's Note:

All things must come to an end eventually, and now it's time for the printed version of La Palabra to be retired. The May La Palabra will be the last one mailed. In order to send the printed version via bulk mail, there must be 200 pieces mailed each month. Unfortunately, after purging our mailing list of people who have been gone for YEARS (some for as many as 5 years!), we have less than 125 names on our list. There will also be substantial savings on printing and mailing costs.

This does NOT mean that La Palabra is going away! If you are on the all-church email list, I will simply send you the link to the newsletter on our website. Click on the link and you will see the familiar format of La Palabra in glorious color! (Check it out at www.fpcmesa.org.) If I don't have your email address, please send it to me at pubs@fpcmesa.org, and I will add it to the list. If you don't have access to a computer, contact me at the church office, 480-964-8606, and we'll make arrangements.

Thanks for your understanding!

Linda Reeves

See calendar on website:

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

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First Presbyterian Church

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

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Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

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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