

La Palabra

January 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

The Work of Christmas: Hope, Wonder, and Possibility!

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

~Howard Thurman

This Christmas poem reminds us of the beauty and wonder of the season ~ the miracle that God has entered into human history and into our lives as the Christ child. We are also reminded that part of the beauty of the season is the work in which we are called to participate ~ the work of healing and blessing; of bearing light and bringing hope to a world in need. Christ's coming calls us to the work of providing for basic needs and building up that which has been torn down – whether it is a home or a heart. We are invited to work for peace by living into the peace that Christ brings. How will that take shape in your life in the coming year?

A new year brings with it hope for a future yet unfolding, wonder at the many and varied ways life is different from a year ago, and the possibility of ongoing growth, change, and discovery about ourselves, others, and God!

What are your hopes for 2018? What do you wonder about? What possibilities bring joy and excitement into your heart?

Celebrating the twelve days of Christmas, also known as the season of “Christmastide,” leads us directly into the celebration of Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ. This gives us a chance to reflect upon how it is that we have seen Christ in our lives and our world, and how we will see Christ in the coming year. Think and pray about:

- How can we be most open to seeing Christ – in others and in ourselves?
- How can we be most open to seeing Christ – in our circumstances, both challenging and satisfying?
- How can we be most open to seeing Christ – in places and in people we least expect to find Christ?

May all of your days – all of your tomorrows – be filled with hope, wonder, and possibility; for surely, with Christ all things are possible!

Blessings....Ann

INDEX

<i>A Message from Ann</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Fellowship</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Thank You's</i>	5
<i>Mission</i>	6
<i>Ministry</i>	6
<i>January Birthdays</i>	7
<i>Address Changes</i>	7
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	7
<i>Hoedown Flyer</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	Website

WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Nate Robinson
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

Funerals/Memorials (D) —
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

Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir will take their newly refurbished handbells on the road to share with the Valley as they perform at Phoenix ZooLights on Thursday, January 11th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome (with ZooLights admission).

Our Artist Series will host the Valley Chamber Chorale for a concert on Saturday, January 27th at 4:00 p.m.



The group will be under the director of former FPC Organist Dr. Christopher Samuel, and the choir will perform in the beautiful acoustics of Fox Chapel. Freewill donations will be received at the door. Founded in 1988, the Valley Chamber Chorale is currently celebrating its 30th season. It is one of the longest running not-for-profit choral organizations in the Valley. The ensemble has performed at state conventions of the Music Educators National Conference, in 1991 and 1995, the Western Region Convention of the American Guild of Organists in 1995, and the “World’s Largest Organ Concert” with guest artist, Joan Lippincott, in 1996. The group’s compact disc of Renaissance motets and madrigals, “O

Sing Joyfully,” was released in 1996, and can be found in bookstores locally and in select cities nationally.

The First Players will present their 22nd annual theatrical production on March 23, 24, and 25, including a new matinee performance. The show will be **DISNEY’S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**. Join the First Players this March for a “*tale as old as time.*” For production information and tickets, please visit the First Players webpage, fpcmesa.org/first-players.

Coming Events:

- 3/23-25 First Players Dinner-Theater: Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. Tickets: fpcmesa.org/firstplayers.

Humoresque

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

We’ll begin the year with a little choir humor - A Chorister’s Guide to Keeping Conductors in Line - The basic training of every singer should, of course, include myriad types of practical and theoretical emphases. One important area which is often neglected, however, is the art of one-upsmanship. The following rules will guide you as you develop the proper relationship between singer and conductor:

1. Never be satisfied with the starting pitch. If the conductor uses a pitch-pipe, make known your preference for pitches from the piano and vice-versa. Be sure to hum the pitch aloud.
2. Complain about the temperature of the rehearsal room, the lighting, crowded space, and of a draft. It’s best to do this when the conductor is under pressure.
3. Bury your head in the music just before cues, and throughout every rehearsal and performance.
4. Ask for a re-audition or seating change. Ask often. Give the impression you’re about to quit. Let the conductor know you’re there as a personal favor, and offer subtle reminders about how valuable you are.
5. Insist on group precision. Raise your hand often to clarify whether each break is to be an eighth note, a full quarter, or some other variable. Make sure the conductor knows that your score is fully marked, making his or her job just window dressing.
6. Loudly clear your throat during pauses (tenors are trained to do this from birth). Quiet instrumental interludes are a good chance to blow your nose.
7. Check in: Long after a passage has gone by, ask the conductor if your C# was in tune. This is especially effective if you had no C# or were not singing at the time.

8. Use your pencil. At dramatic moments in the music (which the conductor is emoting), be busy marking your music so that the climaxes will sound empty and disappointing.
 9. Timing is everything. Wait until well into a rehearsal before letting the conductor know that you don't have music.
 10. Look at your watch frequently. Shake it in disbelief occasionally. Tap one foot throughout the last seven minutes of rehearsal to help the conductor wrap things up. Whenever possible, start packing up during this period, or for more impact, go to #15.
 11. When possible, sing your part either an octave above or below what is written. This is excellent ear-training for the conductor. If he hears the pitch, deny it vehemently and claim that it must have been the combination tone.
 11. Tell the conductor, "I can't find the beat." Conductors are frequently sensitive about their "stick technique", so challenge it frequently.
 12. Offer your own knowledge. If you are singing in a language with which the conductor is the least bit unfamiliar, ask her as many questions as possible about the meaning of individual words. If this fails, ask her about the pronunciation of the most difficult words. Occasionally, say the word twice and ask her preference, making to say it exactly the same both times. If she remarks on their similarity, give her a look of utter disdain and mumble under your breath about the "subtleties of inflection".
 13. Offer additional resources. Ask the conductor if he has listened to the von Karajan recording of the piece. Imply that he could learn a thing or two from it. Also good: ask, "Is this the first time you've conducted this piece?"
 14. If your articulation differs from that of others singing the same phrase, stick to your guns. Do not ask the conductor which is correct until backstage, just before the concert.
 15. Find an excuse to leave the rehearsal about 15 minutes early so that others will become restless and start to fidget.
- [from Tricia Ramsey, adapted from ahajokes.com]

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
 Cards (D) — Cindy Davenport
 Older Adult (E) — Dave Jurgensen

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
 Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
 Fellowship Deacon — Dan Sitzler
 Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Danaher

Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Rummel
 Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Harding
 Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman
 Youth Elder — Sedona Verch

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!

- January 20 — Western Hoedown & BBQ
- February 10 — Mother-Daughter Tea
- February 25 — Chili Cook-Off



A new year is upon us. This may be the year to make a change and join one of the four Bible Study Circles of Presbyterian Women! The annual study enriches our faith. The dear fellowship of women growing together, supporting each other over the years nourishes our souls. Give us a try!

- Eve Circle meets in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.
- Deborah Circle meets in member's homes at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Lydia Circle meets in the parlor at 12:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Rachel Circle meets in the library at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Bill Rummler

Preschool through 6th grade **Sunday School** meets each week at 10:15 in Jackson B. Our themes this month will be:

January 7 – Serving Others
January 14 – Martin Luther King Jr
January 21 – Faith Basics (church & mission)
January 28 – Bible Basics

Everyone is always welcome to join us at any time: kids, siblings, parents, grandparents, church members, etc.

Join us this month at **Wednesday WRAP** starting on January 10th. We will meet each week in Fellowship Hall for music, dinner, fellowship, games and Bible study. Wednesday WRAP is appropriate for everyone age 5 and older. There are classes for each age group, including an adult class. The themes for this month are:

January 10 – Western Hoedown
January 17 – Lego Night
January 24 – Backwards
January 31 – Fire Safety

The Grief Share Program is again being offered beginning January 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. This program is for anyone — from our church and beyond — who has lost a loved one. This is a Christian-based program that is designed to help you move through your grief. The cost is \$20 for first time attendees. Please contact Ruth Rummler 480-415-4925, Charlie Golden 480-471-5280 or Dale Gibson 480-834-3211 for more information.

Montlure Presbyterian Church Summer Camp has the dates published for 4th – 12th grade overnight camp in summer 2018. FPC offers a \$200 discount on camp fees for any student that attends as long as a request form is submitted.

Senior High 1

Senior High 1 camp is designed for youth entering 9th through 12th grade. Recommended for youth 14 through 17 years of age as of June 1, 2018	Senior High	06/10/18 - 6/15/18 (Sun - Fri)
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Junior High 1

Junior High 1 camp is designed for youth entering 6th and 8th grade. Recommended for youth 11 through 13 years of age as of June 1, 2018	Junior High	06/24/18 - 06/29/18 (Sun - Fri)
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Juniors

Juniors camp is designed for youth entering 4th and 5th grade. Recommended for youth 9 through 11 years of age as of June 1, 2018	Juniors	06/17/18 - 6/21/18 (Sun - Thurs)
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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!

Since the weather has been so fabulous, we have been very engaged in imaginative play outside using some large shipping boxes as our school bus and 2-car train! The kids helped paint them and have been taking each other on pretend tours out on our play yard. They have really been enjoying this kind of creative fun!

This month we will learning about Outer Space, Transportation, Community Helpers and the Ocean. We will be welcoming Officer Camberg into the classroom to talk about bike safety and showing us her uniform gear. We will also be welcoming the Mesa Fire Department as they bring their fire truck for the kids to explore, too. What a busy month!

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 First Presbyterian Church. We love being with all of you!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

FPC Mesa is seeking a part-time Youth Director. The Youth Director will work with the Pastor, Director of Christian Education, Youth/Young Adult Elder and Discipleship Commission to provide leadership and administrative direction for FPC's youth ministry. The ideal candidate is an individual who loves God, loves Junior and Senior High Youth and is gifted at planning lessons, recreation, and fellowship activities in a format that appeals to youth. The Youth Director must be available Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. A full job description is available on the FPC website. Applicants must submit a cover letter and resume.

Dear FPC Family,

Thank you very much for all the things that you have given to our mission in the Philippines, including 36 Backpacks, many kinds of school supplies, an electronic calculator and clothes for the boys and girls. We have written down everything that the church has given.

Our special appreciation to Peter and Sue Eisenklam who have worked hard with love and joy to express their concerns to the homeless, poor and needy children in the Philippines,

We sent two packages to the Philippines, and they are very appreciative and joyful to receive them. Your love and care for the needy is deeply appreciated.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a fruitful coming year to all.

Nate and Ruth Robinson



MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) — Alice Schlak
Marketing (E) — Tammy Miller

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

Christmas Angels – Thank you for your participation in our annual Christmas Angel Tree. We are so blessed to be able to make a difference in the lives of the four families for whom we gave gifts.

Food Pantry - As always, thank you for your ongoing support and generosity to the food pantry. They continue to need canned fruits, canned vegetables **not green beans** and canned meats like ravioli or beef stew or chili with meat but **not tuna fish**.



I Help – Volunteers are needed for people to pick up clean laundry from Friendship Village and bring it back to the church on Wednesday or Thursday. This is a once a month commitment. Also needed are people to take prayer requests from the ladies on the Sunday nights they are with us. Call Janet Verch at 480-218-1357 if interested in serving in either of these ways.

Save the Dates – Have you thought about your family vacation being a time to grow in faith together as well as make new friends and make a difference in the lives of others? Perhaps this year will be the year that you will choose to bring the whole family and join the 2018 Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, AZ from **July 7- July 14**. With family or individually, all are invited to prayerfully consider coming along this year. If you are thinking you would like to participate in our international mission trip to Guatemala in the spring of 2019, this year's trip is the last opportunity to qualify to go. The requirement for the international trip is that you have attended a local one first. Now is the time to start planning. More information will be provided starting in February.



Mission Trip

Mission Trip Planning Team – If you are interested and willing in being part of the mission trip planning team, please talk to Sue Eisenklam (480-993-6512).

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Robert Harding
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

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

Nominating (D) — Steve Post
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

- ◆ Robert Harding has been nominated by Session for the George Brooks Award because of his continuing work with prisoners.
- ◆ Session has approved the first of three parts of the revised Child Protection and Sexual Misconduct Policy. Once it has all been approved, it will be made public.
- ◆ It was affirmed we would continue to use only the Presidium Background Check for any adults working with individuals under 18 years old. Those of us who have undergone other checks will still need this one. Since Presidium is our church's insurance company as well as Presbytery's, this is the best way to protect our children, employees, volunteers and FPC itself.
- ◆ We will pray for illumination before Scripture reading and will also vary the Creeds we use during worship.
- ◆ The Youth will wrap Christmas gifts as a fund raiser, but will also wrap any Angel Tree gifts without charge.



From the Clerk's Desk

January Birthdays



Stephanie Gerlach	1st
Ryan Posthumus	2nd
Miron Webster	7th
Tammy Miller	8th
Joan Still-Woods	8th
Nate Robinson	9th
Kelly Woods	10th
Susan Logan	14th
Stan Snitzer	15th
Jan Montgomery	16th
Dan Davenport	17th
Helen Letizia	18th
Sara McWhorter	18th
Bill Anderson	21st
Alice Schlak	21st
Shelley Cronenberg	23rd
Bea Towe	23rd
Ashlyn Newbry	25th
Gwendolyn Sitzler	27th
David Jurgensen	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

Calhoun, Lisa
108 N. Greenfield Rd., #1190
Mesa, AZ 85205

Padelford, Clara
Friendship Village Health Care Center
2525 E. Southern Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85282

Calendar Notes

January 1

New Year's Day — Office closed

January 8 & 9

Circles meet

January 11

Dei Gloriam at Zoo Lights

January 20

Western Hoedown and BBQ

January 21

Commissions & Session meet

January 27

Valley Chamber Chorale

January

Monthly Food Drive
Winter Visitor Sunday

Did you know that when you contribute to any of the 22000 accounts that the money can only be used for expenses related to that specific account?

Outreach Committee:	Balance as of 11/30/17
22083 Deacons Ministry	\$3240.13
22084 Mesa Presbyterian Ministries	680.00
22087 I Help (Women's Shelter)	3558.14
22092 Grief Share	700.78

Thank you for your generosity!
The Finance Committee



First Presbyterian Church

WASNARNT HOFEDOWN

Barbeque Dinner and Line Dance



Saturday, January 20th

Barbeque Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Line Dancing (with instruction) 6:30 p.m.

Advance Purchase Tickets Required

Line Dancing instruction provided by professional Square Dance / Line Dance caller Bill Kanai.



Coffee Time
In Fellowship Hall,
Sundays at 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Church office
Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ticket Prices

Adults

\$5.00

Kids
(12 & under)

\$3.00

Entire family

\$12.00

*First Presbyterian Church
161 N. Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201*

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

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

Ann Conklin, 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
Anita Ramsey, Youth Director
Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper
James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus
Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus