

La Palabra

July 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, **the** world, and those who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

The Psalmist reminds us that all we have and all we are is a gift from our good and gracious God. Without God, we have nothing. Without God, we are nothing. Our lives are to be lived in gratitude to God, mirroring God’s generous heart.

How well we steward what we have been given by God is at the very heart of living a Christian life. We are charged with putting a great deal of thought, prayer, and intention into the decisions we make about what we do with all that God has entrusted into our care. It is a holy responsibility indeed!

Stewardship is not a “season” in the church when we address such important issues as the church budget; rather stewardship is a way of life ~ it is a Christian way of life. A way of life reflective of Christ and Christ’s love and sacrifice for the world.

Stewardship is also a very broad topic involving what we take in, as well as what we give away. Stewardship concerns our bodies, our minds, our spirits, the earth, as well as what are commonly known as the “Three T’s” – Time, Talent, and Treasure.

God cares deeply about each one of us; therefore, God cares how we treat our bodies. We are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps 139:14) and our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinth 6: 19). It makes sense then that we would be mindful concerning what we take in to our bodies in the way of food, drink, words, images, and music.

In our busy and frenetic-paced culture and world, we also need to steward our time well. None of us has enough hours in the day, so we need to take care in how we spend the time we have. Do we practice Sabbath, devoting time to God and to reading/praying/studying God’s word? Do we reach out to others with a phone call, a card, a visit? Do we regularly worship God with our community of faith and offer greetings, smiles, and a caring word to those in our midst, especially those who are visiting our congregation?

You may be aware that Jesus spoke more about money, both our relationship with and our use of money, than almost any other topic in the Bible. Clearly God cares a great deal about how we steward our resources; the same resources that have been given to us by God. Do we budget well and live beneath our means so that we have more to contribute to the needs of others and to the ministry of FPC Mesa which reaches out to our community and beyond? Do we give first to God and then work out the rest of our needs and expenditures? These are Biblical principles and goals for which to strive as we live out our Christian life.

As we are reminded in the gospel, “Those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Mt 10:39) Friends, as we live together in faith, let us strive to give as Christ gave: regularly, sacrificially, and with an open and loving heart.

Thanks be to God for ALL that God has given to us!

~ Pastor Ann

INDEX

<i>A Message from Ann</i>	1
<i>Mark’s Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Mission</i>	3
<i>Fellowship</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Administration</i>	5
<i>July Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Address Changes</i>	6
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	6
<i>In Memoriam</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	Website

WORSHIP

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

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Karyn Weaver
Worship (D) — Gail Soderquist

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

Thanks to the leadership of Jasmine and her Program Staff, we had a wonderful Vacation Bible School last month. Music was led by Karen Rudin, and adjunct thespians included Peter Eisenklam, Alice Schlak, and Sandra Clark. It was a joy to share in this great outreach event, which attracted several children from our local community!

Last month, FPC was also a site host for a national Pipe Organ Encounter. During the week-long event, youth from around the country received private lessons, attended workshops and recitals, and discovered and discussed the majesty of “The King of the Instruments!” We are blessed to share our beautiful Visser-Rowland Tracker Organ with our community and with future organists of churches near and far. Our congregation needs to be reminded again and again of those in our midst who helped to make possible this beautiful gift to our congregation and extended community. Thank you for blessing us all with such an incredibly beautiful instrument.

Come Sing and Ring in our Summer Choirs, with Directors Karen Rudin and Bea Towe and Organists Barb Walker and Larry Lathom. This month, the choirs will lead our worship music, and rehearsals will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us! Remember that our July combined worship services will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The most up-to-date Summer Choir Schedule is available on the Worship Planning page of our Church Website, and printed copies are on the Receptionist’s Counter in the Church Office and on the Sanctuary Kiosk. Our remaining summer schedule includes:

- July 1 Keyboard Sunday
- July 8 Summer Choir
- July 15 Summer Bells
- July 22 Summer Choir
- July 29 Sunday of Instrumentalists
- August 5 HolyGrounds Praise Band
- August 12 HolyGrounds Praise Band
- August 19 Tenor-Bass Ensemble (two services)
- August 26 One Voice (two services)
- September 2 Hymnfest, with Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir & Organ (10:00 service)
- September 9 Kickoff of Fall Choirs (two services)

In “The Perfect Sound” (*21st Century Chorister Newsletter*, April 2007), Mikey McGuire noted a well known fact throughout the choral community that “men are beginning to become spots of blue in a sea of pink.” He further suggested that choral directors are nervous, watching as the “once-steady flow of men diminishes into a rather slow drip.” We have a large number of talented men in our congregation. On August 19th, we will have a chance to have our “men of faith rise up and sing.” Our Tenor- Bass Ensemble will lead worship that Sunday, so let’s show the talents of our FPC men, old and young alike. And, when the Sanctuary Choir begins in the fall, come and SING!

I’ll enjoy some travel time this month. In addition to visiting family in Kansas and along the way, I’ll be attending the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, held this year in Kansas City. I hope to return with new worship ideas, new music and friendships, and abundant inspiration for the coming year. Each convention features not only seasoned professional choral and organ performers but also young artists who evidence the great hands in which organ music will be carried to future generations. I anticipate that this convention will raise the bar yet another notch. Thank you for your faithful musical and spiritual support, for making possible this time of study leave, and for prayers along the way.

Humoresque

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

The efficiency expert concluded his lecture with a note of caution: "You do not want to try these techniques at home!" "Why not?" asked a man from the audience. "Well, because, after years of not paying attention, I suddenly noticed my wife's routine at breakfast," the expert explained. "She made lots of trips to the refrigerator, stove, table, and cabinets, often carrying just a single item at a time." "What did you do?" the man in the audience asked. "I said, 'Hon, why don't you try carrying several things at once? It'd be much more efficient.'" "Well, did your suggestions save much time?" the attendee asked. "Actually, yes," the efficiency expert said. "It used to take her 20 minutes to get breakfast ready. Now I do it in seven." [from Lois Hildenbrand]

MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam

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

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Shelley Cronenberg
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Mission Trip – Twenty-two participants have been preparing to go to Tseyi Bidaa by participating in FPC Mesa Vacation Bible School, and by preparing their hearts and minds for this experience of continuing to build relationships there. We will be leaving the church Saturday morning, July 7th. We will be attending a bilingual service with their congregation on Sunday, July 8th, followed by a community dinner and prep for VBS. VBS will take place every day from 10:00-1:00. We will be providing lunch for all the children attending. We are anticipating between 30 and 50 children every day! In the late afternoons, our MT Participants will be engaged in a variety of cultural activities. We will return Saturday, July 14th. Please keep all going there, all the children and families who will be there, and the overall whole experience in your prayers that we may all reflect and encounter Jesus. Pray for our safe travels and for us to be aware of the Holy Spirit in our midst working in us and through us, in them and through them the entire time.



Mission Trip



Food Pantry – As always, thank you for your on-going support of the food pantry. The current need is for cereal, and spaghetti sauce. Cash is always welcome as well to purchase these items.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Transportation (D) — Steve Muth
Older Adult (E) — David Jurgensen

Fellowship Deacon — Todd Ramsey
Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Hardng

Fellowship Deacon —
Fellowship Deacon —
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman
Youth Elder — Ian Harding

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for this upcoming Fellowship event! It is not to be missed! Stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!

- August 24 — Faith & Family Night with the Arizona Diamondbacks including a post-game concert featuring Mercy Me! More information to come on this great event! Mark your calendar and invite your friends!



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) —

Preschool through 6th grade Sunday School meets each week at 11:00 in Jackson B. Our themes this month will be:

July 1 – Independence Day
July 8 – Poetry & Writing Haikus
July 15 – Sing Along w/ guitar
July 22 – the Cross
July 29 – Faith Basics – Jesus & Salvation

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

Thank you for another amazing VBS! Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School was so much fun! We had over 30 kids each day on campus for music, games, Bible adventures, crafts, science experiments, videos, snack and more. Twenty of those children we had never met before! What a blessing to meet new families and connect. Many, many thanks to the 31 volunteers as well as the congregation that prayed for us and donated tangible items to make the program a hit. Remember, when you worry, Jesus rescues!



SAVE THE DATE! See you next year for VBS Roar! We'll learn how life is wild and God is good. June 24-28, 2018.



ADMINISTRATION

Clerk of Session — Carol Gerlach
 Property (E) (Chair) — Robert Harding
 Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

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

Nominating (D) — Michael Gerlach
 Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach



FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

The June Session meeting was held on the 24th because the 17th was Father's Day.

This is the first meeting for the new Class of 2021 members.

The current slate of officers consists of the following members:

Elders -- Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Sue Eisenklam, Mission	Robert Harding, Property	Carol Gerlach, Clerk
Bob Gerlach, Stewardship & Finance	Ellen Hickey, Family Ministries	Stephanie Gerlach, Children's Ministries
Ian Harding, Youth	Dave Jurgensen, Older Adult	Jeanne Partida, Personnel
Dennis Sitzler, Fellowship	Karen Rudin, Adult/Small Groups	Nate Robinson, Worship
Vacant, Youth/Young Adult	Vacant, Marketing	Barbara Walker, Nominating

Deacons -- Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Michael Gerlach, Nominating	Gretchen Frederick, Cards	Shelley Cronenberg, Seasonal Ministries
Susan McMichael, Personnel	Kyle Harding, Fellowship	Steve Muth, Transportation
Joy Schulz, Prayer Chain	Jan Montgomery, Co-Moderator	Jack Oliver, Co-Moderator
Mark Waters, Fellowship	Alice Schlak, Assimilation	Vacant, Fellowship
Vacant, Fellowship	Todd Ramsey, Fellowship	Gail Soderquist, Worship

- The minutes of the April 15th Session meeting were approved. Also approved were the minutes of the May 6th Congregational Meeting to elect new officers. There was no May Session meeting.
- The April and May financial reports were approved.
- To comply with Book of Order rules, Carol Gerlach was elected Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Corporation and Stewardship and Finance elder Bob Gerlach was elected Treasurer of the Corporation.
- The Clerk reported that our membership stands at 292 as of May 31.
- Bob Gerlach reported that we have contracted with Vanco Payment Systems for **online giving**. To sign up, go to fpcmesa.org, click on the Online Giving link, fill out the form, provide your personal profile information, a start date, the amount of your giving, your bank's routing number, your account number and the church account you want it to go to (i.e., the General Fund, etc.) and click Submit!
- Upon recommendation from the Worship Commission and approval by session at the February meeting, during July, worship will consist of one service, in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

From the Finance Committee: As we enjoy our summer adventures, let us keep mindful the financial needs of the church. You can make it easy by signing up for online giving at the church's website. We are prayerfully moving forward to the budget preparation this fall and ask for your prayers in the upcoming fall stewardship drive.

July Birthdays



<i>Sharon Schroeder</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Ruth Landers</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Marcy Snitzer</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Tate Posthumus</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Anne Schafer</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Kevin Reeves</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Virginia Leigh</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Linda Hayball</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Jo Throckmorton</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Jackie Kambak</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Jessi Smith</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Kristen Hull</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Mark Waters</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Andrew Frederick</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Ruth Letizia</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Brielle Reeves</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Carol Stirling</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Larry Loraditch</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Skyler Verch</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Eileen Brause</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Ian Harding</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Matthew Skarphol</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Fernande Anderson</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Larry Beinert</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Ben Gerlach</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Freda Homolya</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Amie Alvarado</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Mack Coulter</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Tom Watson</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Chaz McInelly</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Demi McInelly</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Jackie St. Louis</i>	<i>30th</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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Gray, Barrie & Ann 627 Leyden Lane, #200E Claremont, CA 91711*	Mills, Pat & Rosemary 35 W. Brown Rd., #108B Mesa, AZ 85201
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*Barrie was in charge of building our beautiful stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and Ann sang in the choir and played the organ while they worshipped with us years ago. They would appreciate our prayers and cards.

Calendar Notes

July 4
Independence Day — Office Closed

July 7-14
Mission Trip to Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church
in Del Muerto

July
Monthly Food Drive

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST we will again collect school supplies for the Preschool. When you are purchasing school supplies for the upcoming school year, remember the Preschool also needs supplies. Watch for a wish list to be published later in July.


IN MEMORIAM

Rosalie Lowe, May 14, 2018
 Al Chisholm, June 8, 2018
 Betty Lou Edwards, June 17, 2018
 Irene Lenke, June 24, 2018



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

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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

Rob Kjar, Bookkeeper

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus