

La Palabra

August 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

Mid-Summer Meanderings

This summer I have the opportunity to travel for mission, for study, for community, and for family. I am grateful to God and to all of you at FPC Mesa for these wonderful opportunities.

In early July, I joined our mission team from Mesa First to travel to the Navajo Nation. During the past three years, we have developed and grown a relationship with the congregation and community of Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church. We have traveled to their community to offer Vacation Bible School to the children of that congregation and the surrounding area. I have been blessed in so many ways with this opportunity of mutual ministry – to sing and praise God together; to learn about one another’s culture and community; to bask in the beauty of God’s creation; and to get to know new people, new friends in Christ. Our hope is to continue to nurture this relationship and, possibly, to engage in mission together in the coming year.

As I write this, I am at Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian retreat center in northern New Mexico, at a conference sponsored and funded by the Synod of the Southwest. A group of pastors from Arizona and New Mexico have gathered together for a week of study and reflection. Guided well on this endeavor by Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, preaching professor at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, GA, we have set our focus on the art and craft of preaching, especially that of preaching difficult texts in difficult times. Again we are blessed by the beauty of the mesas.

When I return, I will then re-orient for an extended weekend in Louisville for the Presbyterian Women’s Triennial Gathering. Having experienced this once before in 1998, I look forward to spending time with a group of Presbyterian Women from FPC Mesa as we learn and grow in our faith together. It is always a great joy to see the wider church in action and to be reminded of all of the wonderful resources of our denomination when we come together as the connectional church. I look forward to this gathering of faithful women with great joy and anticipation!

To round out my summer travels, in early September, I will travel back to Michigan to celebrate the marriage of one of my cousins. It will be a time to be together with family whom I don’t often get to be with, to enjoy the beauty and peaceful presence that is Lake Michigan, and to see both of my adult kids’ housing for the coming year.

God is so very faithful in providing time for rest and reflection; time for the study of Scripture and preaching; time in mission and community to learn and grow together; and time to gather with family from all around the country. I hold you all in prayer during this season of summer, even as I welcome and cherish your prayers. In all things, I give thanks to God!

~ Pastor Ann

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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) — Gail Soderquist

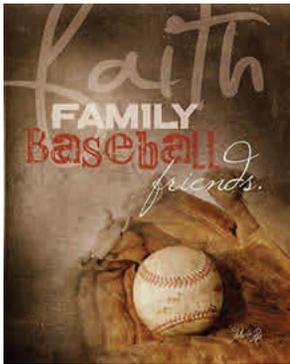
Mark's Remarks

(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

The FPC Log-Ram Small Group will return this fall. The group plans to meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in joining our small group, please give me a call at the church (480-964-8606). We love to laugh, to learn about God, and to learn how to share His Word.



"Take Me Out to the Ballgame!" Join our FPC Family and Friends on Friday, August 24th, for Faith & Family Night at Chase Field! Reserve your tickets now for the Diamondbacks and musical guests MercyMe, and then come and root for the team during an exciting pennant race for the post-season! We'll go extra innings with a postgame concert by MercyMe, who were just named the Top Christian Artist at the 2018 Billboard Music Awards. So, grab a friend and your ball glove (optional) and join us at Chase Field on Friday, August 24th, as the Diamondbacks take on the Seattle Mariners. Ticket reservations will be taken during Coffee Hour each Sunday morning.

Mark your calendars! The remaining summer worship times and locations, with special music, will include:

- August 5 HolyGrounds Praise Band, Worship at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- August 12 Kick-Off Sunday, HolyGrounds Praise Band, Worship at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- August 19 Tenor-Bass Ensemble, Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- August 26 One Voice, Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- September 2 Hymnfest, Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Coming Events

- 8/24 FPC to Faith & Family Night at the Diamondbacks, with musical guests MercyMe
- 8/29 Wednesday WRAP Opening Night

Humoresque

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

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember... Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks. 'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?' 'Sure.' 'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks. 'No, I can remember it.' 'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?' He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.' 'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks. Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!' Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment. 'Where's my toast?' [from Anita Ramsey]

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

Jesus Rescues! The 22 participants had opportunities to live this message as well as to carry it! Some on the trip were dealing with health and life issues, as well as physical injuries. Some had never had a mission trip experience. Others had other challenges. Yet all, allowed the message of “Jesus rescues” to be their own and moved past themselves to carry the very same message to those who came to Tseyi Bidaa Vacation Bible School. There, we sang and moved to the music of *Never Let Go of Me*, the theme song, where we proclaimed that through every storm of life we know God is by our side and that we are holding on to his promise that he will never let go of us. In *Rescue Me*, we raised our voices in supplication singing: “And the waves are crashing all around. I need you, God, and I need you now. Rescue me. I can feel the water rising. Rescue me, Jesus... Lord, I’m in so deep and I feel powerless to save myself. Only you can be the help I need. Rescue me.” Wow! How many of us can identify with these powerful messages?!



We averaged 29 children a day. We discovered this year that while eight of those children from Tseyi Bidaa know and love Jesus, the rest of the children don’t hear about him except when they come to Vacation Bible School! Some came for the food. Some came for something to do. They came, and we received them, showing love and kindness and embracing the experience, sharing the good news whether in the opening and closing songs, in Kid Vid, Imagination Station, Bible Adventures, games or just in conversation! We were able to deepen our relationships with both children and adults who have been coming every year. It is a joy to be in relationship with them. We were blessed in so many ways.



This year VBS was in the morning from 10:00-1:00. Our great cooks prepared lunch not only for our crew but for the VBS children as well as all the adults who were there. We usually left the church around 2:00 p.m. In the evenings we had opportunities to participate in a myriad of activities including going to overlooks of Canyon de Chelly, touring the historic Presbyterian church in Ganado, swimming at Chinle High School Aquatics complex, horseback riding or jeep touring into the canyon, hearing a talk about the Hogan at the Visitor Center and/or hiking White House Ruins trail.

On Wednesday evening we attended a dinner at Trinity Presbyterian in Chinle. After dinner, we heard Leslie Vogel, who was with us all week, speak about mission in Guatemala and about her new job as liaison to Mexico and Guatemala. It was good for us to hear her as it stirred a conversation about what the international mission trip in 2019 might look like. It is generally agreed that Guatemala may not be the best for us and that perhaps a border ministry experience might be more meaningful. Resources for investigation and consideration were provided.

Be sure to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 12th, for worship in Fellowship Hall where you will see pictures and hear from participants about the experiences that touched them during the week we were gone. You don’t want to miss this!



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) —

Children's Sunday School meets each week at 11:00 am (August 5 & 12) and 10:15 am (August 19 & 26) in classroom Jackson B. We study a new lesson each week. This month the preschool through sixth graders will be exposed to:

August 5 – Jonah & the Whale
August 12 – Knitting & Handwork
August 19 – Card Making
August 26 – Storytime

Wednesday WRAP kicks off another year at the end of this month! Join us on August 29th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall! The theme our first night is Back to the Bible! “Where you go, I will go. And where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people. And your God, my God.” Ruth 1:10 Wednesday WRAP has fellowship, dinner and Bible study for all in kindergarten through adult! We also offer music classes for kinder through high school! There are dinner tables for all ages including the young adults of the church! Please join us. Cost is only \$3 for one night or \$10 for a 6 week block.



For our August Mission project, we will again be collecting school supplies for the FPC Preschool! Shiloh Murillo, the Preschool Director, along with assistance from her teachers, has compiled a wish list for supplies for the coming year. If you are interested in purchasing some school supplies, please place your donations in the designated boxes. There will be one box in the Sanctuary, and another will be in the church office.

Preschool begins holding classes on August 13th, but your donations will be welcome any time during August. You are also welcome to come to the Open House on August 9th at 5:30 p.m. Thank you very much!

School Classroom & Supply Wish List

- 64 oz Bottle of Bubbles
- White school glue
- Glue sticks
- 8x11 or 9x12 construction paper (multi-colored)
- 8x11 white copy paper
- Snacks - individually wrapped & healthy
- Card stock (white or colored)
- Paper plates
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- 3oz paper Dixie Cups
- Foaming Hand Soap refill liquid
- Washable markers
- Thin markers
- Colored pencils
- Colored Dry-erase markers
- Watercolor paint trays
- Colored tissue paper
- Golf Tees
- Cotton Balls
- Q-Tips

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! Tickets are \$24 for the Bullpen Reserve Section. Sign up during coffee time. Invite your friends!



We ended last year's study of Hebrew's with a tasty lunch, a wonderful presentation from Ruth Robinson and a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to Sue Eisenklam for her time as Moderator.

We will be starting a new study in September titled, "God's Promise, I Am With You." Author, Amy Poling Sutherland gives us a study that shows how His promise to be with us in good times and bad times and never to forsake us, is repeated from Genesis to the end of the Gospels. The focus will be the promise itself and how it speaks into particular circumstances.

Please come and join in on remembering just how much God loves each of us. The conversations and the feeling of community will bring you back each month.

THE BIG EVENT IS JUST AHEAD! The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon and de Cristo are proud to present our annual Big Event, Saturday, August 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Tucson. This day-long educational experience has 26 workshops from which to choose ranging from Empowering Servant Leadership to Clerk of session training to dealing with the Opioid Health Crisis to Effective Church Websites and many more! Choose three from the list and join fellow Presbyterians from both presbyteries in learning ways to enrich your Christian journey! Join us for worship and meet new friends from across the state. You can purchase a boxed lunch as a part of your \$10 registration. For a complete list of workshops and to register, visit the Presbytery website at www.presbyterydecristo.org or www.pbygrandcanyon.org. Class size is limited, so register today to ensure you get your top choices! Register by August 15. See you August 25 at St. Andrew's PC, 7650 N Paseo Del Norte, Tucson. (And don't forget to invite your friends!)

August Birthdays



Frank Thompson	1st
Verna Green	5th
Todd Verch	6th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ayden Hickey	8th
Tom Dye	9th
Rosemary Chisnall	10th
Gary Marshall	11th
Jo Beth Walstrom	11th
Carol Webster	12th
Jim Bruening	19th
Eliana Couillard	19th
Lynette Belew	20th
Robert Gerlach	20th
Tricia MacDonald	25th
Lanai Mills	25th
Sean Smith	25th
Doug McInelly	26th
Mary Rugg	26th
Angelina Waters	26th
Burton Newbry	28th
Evangelina Couillard	31st

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

Masterson, Katie
 2286 E. Sherri Drive
 Gilbert, AZ 85296
k.l.swaney@cox.net

Miller, David & Tammy
 1413 W. El Monte Place
 Chandler, AZ 85224

Calendar Notes

August 5
 10:00 Service in Fellowship Hall

August 6
 Deacons meet

August 18
 Officer Retreat at Friendship Village
 Irene Lenke Memorial Service

August 6
 Commission & Session meet

August 24
 Faith & Family Night with Diamondbacks
 Featuring Mercy Me

August 26
 Monthly Food Drive



IN MEMORIAM

Charlene Raikes, July 17, 2018



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

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