

# La Palabra

October 2018

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## A Message from Ann

**God Whose Giving Knows No Ending**  
Do you ever think about how God gives?

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. —John 3:16*

*He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. —Philippians 2:8*

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. —John 14:16-17*

**God is an amazing giver!** In addition to giving God's own self as the Triune God ~ Father, Son and Holy Spirit ~ consider what other gifts God has given to you.

What talents do you have? How does God touch you throughout the day, reminding you of God's deep and abiding love for you? What resources has God provided for you? Also consider your response to God's generosity. How are you demonstrating your gratitude to God, acknowledging all that you are and have was first given to you by God? Do you dedicate time in your day to God? Do you share the talents and resources that God has given to you? Do you give first to God, and then determine the rest of your budget? Do these practices help turn your focus to God?

As the Finance Committee and Elders prepare and consider the budget for the coming year, we need to think about how First Presbyterian Church will thrive into the future. The challenge for us is to live into the vision of who God is calling us to become as a vibrant and vital congregation. We have a lot of wonderful ministry happening on our campus by our own congregation and those to whom we extend our gift of hospitality. What are ways in which we can continue to practice hospitality both within and outside our walls? As we welcome people into our congregation, so we welcome Jesus. How are we, God's co-workers in the vineyard, God's ambassadors, practicing our discipleship in our congregation, our community and around the world?

As you are probably aware, expenses continue to rise and increasing levels of funding are required to maintain our current level of ministry, and our desire is to grow our ministry – in its depth and in its outreach. For the current year, approximately 10% of our budget was dedicated to maintaining our building and grounds; another 10% for utilities and phone; 7% was dedicated to mission; 3% to worship; 4% was spent for office supplies; and just under 60% (59%) was dedicated to compensating our excellent staff. This is in line with the standard recommendation that church's personnel expenses are between 60-70% of their total budget.

Prior to **Dedication & Celebration Sunday on October 28th** when we will gather for one combined worship service at 10:00 followed by a celebration luncheon to give thanks for the many blessings God has given to us, please prayerfully consider your contribution to our mission and ministry at First Presbyterian Church for 2019.

If you haven't pledged in previous years, please consider doing so for the coming year. If you have pledged, we are grateful and ask that you would consider whether you are able to increase your pledge in 2019 to help us expand our ministry. If you are able to tithe, we are very grateful for your commitment!

In the hymn named above, God Whose Giving Knows No Ending, the first verse concludes: "Gifted by you, we turn towards you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days."

May we all be gracious donors to our collective mission and ministry here at FPC Mesa!  
~ 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) — Renita Jurgensen  
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

It's almost time for this year's Stewardship Celebration! **Following our combined 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 28th**, we'll enjoy a celebration luncheon and "A Good Old Vaudeville Show." The Sanctuary Choir will present an exciting Vaudeville Spectacular in six acts filled with songs and old-time jokes which made the "Vaudeville Era" so unforgettable. Music will include Hello, My Baby, When You Wore a Tulip, Oh Suzanna, Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie, and Oh You Beautiful Doll, along with a salute to George M. Cohan and a visit from the lovely Miss Tessie Tura. Join our Sanctuary Choir and Soloists in "a fabled place, full of style and grace, where someone's bound to get a pie in the face. The old routine, a tender scene, will have 'em screamin' bravo from the mezzanine. For a modest price, we'll give you paradise, it's a Vaudeville Show!"



Dueling Jazz Pianists Ellen & Glenn Brown will play our first concert of this year's Artist Series! The concert will be offered free of charge, thanks to our Artist Series donors. We'll meet in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 11th, at 3:00 p.m. for a concert of jazz piano duets. Both classically trained musicians, Ellen on piano and Glenn on trumpet, the duo will display their keyboard prowess as they set the house a-jumpin' with jive and be-boppin.' We'll have two baby grands front and center, so join us for a program of live piano music in a cool afternoon of jazz. You'll be delighted by their variety of old standards, jazz, Latin, and even gospel music!



### Coming Events

- 10/28 All-Church Stewardship Celebration, featuring Hearts Hands and Voices, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and the Sanctuary Choir in "A Good Old Vaudeville Show!", **10:00 a.m. Combined Worship** in the Sanctuary followed by Celebration Luncheon
- 11/11 Artist Series: Dueling Jazz Pianists Ellen & Glenn Brown, Sanctuary, 3PM, Free

### Humoresque

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

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the e-mail. Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow decided to check her e-mail expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read: To: My Loving Wife. Subject: I've Arrived. Date: July 19, 2010. I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I've seen that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was. P. S. Sure is hot down here!!!! [from Don Krill]

## DISCIPLESHIP

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

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

Youth/Young Adult (E) —

### To the wonderful – and too often weary – women of FPC!

I have been thinking and praying about so many women in our congregation who are running on empty! You all have been on my heart and in my prayers, and I want to provide an opportunity for you to receive, as you all are very often in the role of giving. I want you to receive rest, refreshment, and renewal for your spirit and soul. I want you to come to church to be filled and not be afraid of being asked to do “one more thing.” Many of you are working, raising a family, and serving in one (or more!) capacities. Some are also caring for aging parents. All of this can become exhausting and even a burden.

So I invite you to consider one evening a month to join with other women in the congregation to share our lives, share our hearts, and pray together. There is no other agenda except that.

I thought we could try this for October, November, and December and then talk about whether we want to continue. Here are the dates and times I propose we gather: (all are Thursday evenings)

**October 18th**  
**November 15th**  
**December 20th**

**From 6:30 – 7:30 (or 8:00 – depending upon the desire of those gathered) in the Parlor**

Know that you all are on my heart and in my prayers. Life can be tough and it can also be beautiful when we support, encourage, and pray with and for one another. I wish you all God's peace,

~ Ann

**Men's Fellowship** will begin meeting Wednesday, October 3rd. All men are invited for a continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 a.m. followed by Bible study.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
**PRE SCHOOL**  
**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE SINCE 1986**

What a wonderful feeling in the air! The temperatures are starting to drop and the kids are really enjoying the change. As we begin October, we are reminded that change is not a bad thing but a necessary part of God's plan for us.

With excitement, we want to announce a couple of changes that are happening at our little school. First, we would like to welcome back Rachelle Schuster as the substitute teacher in our 3-year-old class. She is a fun and caring teacher for these little minds! Second, we started out the school year with 29 kids enrolled before the first day of school... but within the first two weeks we enrolled seven more kids! AND now we have 36, Wow! A great change indeed!

Also, we started our fall planting in our new garden boxes on the playground. Some of plants include pumpkin, sunflowers and lettuce. Hopefully, we will have a few things for the kids to help grow along the way bringing the classroom experience outside!

Additionally, we want to send out our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the First Presbyterian Church Congregants for their generous contributions of school supplies that started our program off on the right path. We are so humbled and thankful for your generosity! The children are thoroughly enjoying them! Thank you!

In Christ's Care,  
Shiloh Murillo, Director

## 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

**Peace and Global Witness Special Offering** – 2 Thessalonians 3:16 says “Now may the Lord of peace...give you peace at all times in all ways.” With this special offering, we join Presbyterians around the world to work to break the power of hate and heal the wounds of violence and division. By giving to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we work together to share Christ’s Peace with one another. 50% of this offering will go to PCUSA for supporting those who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the world.



25% will go to mid council to support regional ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. FPC Mesa has designated 25% of it to support Rev Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado and the people of the US-Mexico Border and the ministry of Frontera de Cristo. The offering will be received on Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 7th. Thank you for your prayerful giving.

**International Mission Trip** – The trip to the US-Mexico border ministry in Aqua Prieta at Frontera de Cristo will be the week of March 9-15. The planning has begun. There will be classes to prepare participants for the trip. Hopefully, there will even be some conversational Spanish opportunities as well. As the dates and specifics become clear, information will be shared. Early as it is, spring break will come sooner than we think. Youth must be at least 14 to participate. It is preferable that you have mission trip experience but not required. If you are feeling called to go on this mission, please make your interest known to Sue Eisenklam soon. They prefer to keep the numbers to 15, no more than 20.



**Mesa Make a Difference Day** – This year there is opportunity for people to help who ordinarily can’t. On October 20th, we will meet in Fellowship Hall to stuff bags for the following Saturday. That means volunteers can sit to help! Then on October 27th more volunteers will hang the bags on doors in the area we are given. The bags will contain information that will be provided by the City of Mesa. Please sign up to help stuff bags on October 20th, and or hang bags on October 27th. You may sign up by calling or texting Sue Eisenklam at 480-993-6512 or by emailing her at [eisen-touch@yahoo.com](mailto:eisen-touch@yahoo.com). There will also be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall on October 7th and 14th.

**Coat drive for Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church** - This year FPC Mesa will join Trinity Presbyterian Church in a coat drive for our faith partners at Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church. Adult and especially children of all age sizes of gently used coats will be collected October 7th – 28th. There will be boxes in the sanctuary, office and Fellowship Hall.

**I-Help** – FPC is now hosting I-Help on the first and third Sundays of the month. With this change, the youth and young adults can use the youth room on Sundays when I-Help is not there. **There is a need for a laundry pickup person once a month following the first Sunday of the month.** Pick-ups are usually Wednesday or Thursday, beginning October 10th or 11th. Please see Janet Verch if you can help with this.

**Food Panty** – The food pantry continues to need cereal and meat items (not tuna), such as ravioli or SpaghettiOs. Checks made out to FPC Mesa with designation in memo section for food pantry are welcome as well. That allows Sandy to shop for specific needs. Thank you for your ongoing support.





**United Food Bank Partner Agency Report:** The following information was received in a letter from the Director of Agency Relation and Programs dated August 31, 2018. It is being provided for your information regarding the food United Food Bank donates to our FPC Food Pantry.



For the period of July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018 United Food Bank provided your agency with the following valuations:

Feeding America has assigned a value of \$1.73 per pound for donated food.  
 The average value of purchased food is \$.51 per pound  
 The average value of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) is \$0.56 per pound

<u>Program</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>\$ Value</u>
Donated	7,354	\$12,722.42
Purchased	3,744	\$ 1,909.44
TEFAP	22,620	\$12,667.20
Total		\$27,299.06

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### *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 — Katie Masterson  
 Fellowship Deacon — Carol Strouse  
 Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman  
 Youth Elder — Ian Harding

Watch for announcements for upcoming Fellowship events throughout this fall and winter. Exciting things are in store!



On Saturday, October 13th, we will be hosting the Fall Gathering for the Presbyterian Women of the Grand Canyon Presbytery. The theme this year is No Peace without Justice.

Our keynote speaker is Mary Mikhael, an International Peacemaker, from Syria; the first woman to become President of a seminary in the Middle East. She was appointed to interpret the church's ministry among the Syrian displaced and refugees, while serving as the communicator with partner churches in the United States and Europe.

There will be workshop opportunities, music, crafts, a catered lunch and people to meet from around the state. Registration, including the lunch, is \$10.00. Please mail in your registration forms soon. This will help us know the number for lunch. It will be a fun Saturday, and one to remember.

## ADMINISTRATION

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

News from the September Session meeting.

A complete list of current elders and deacons and the commission they belong to can be found in the La Palabra, listed in each commission's news.

- A reminder to be good stewards of our facilities. Turn off lights and fans when your meeting is over. Make sure the doors are locked.
- Co-chairs of the January 25-26 combined presbytery meeting are Carol Gerlach, Jeanne Partida and Barbara Walker. The participation of all members of the congregations will be necessary. There are many before, during and after jobs that need to be filled.
- The Clerk reported no change in our membership. It stands at 287.
- Ministry Fair is October 21th.
- Dedication & Celebration (Pledge) Sunday is October 28th. **(One 10:00 a.m. service.)**

Carol Gerlach, Clerk

**The Nominating Committee** has begun its work selecting officers (Elders and Deacons) for the June 2019 – June 2022 term. If you would like to suggest someone, please have their permission before forwarding it to a member of the Nominating Committee. Members of the committee are Michael Gerlach, Renita Jurgensen, Chuck Michel, Tammy Miller, Anita Ramsey, Helen Thielke, and Barbara Walker.

We ask you to pray for our committee as it chooses people willing to serve in various capacities.

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**Mark your calendars for these two special Sundays!**

### **Ministry Fair ~ October 21st during worship!**

During our worship services on October 21st we will learn more about the many and varied ministries happening at FPC Mesa. It is a time to reflect on the gifts you've been given by God and discern whether there is a new place to share those gifts within the life of our congregation. Have you always wondered what a Befriender does? Did you know we have a sewing group? Are you looking for a Bible study? Come and learn about all of the wonderful opportunities at FPC Mesa!

### **October 28th is Dedication and Celebration Sunday!**

**We will join together for one worship service at 10:00 in the sanctuary** where we will present our pledges for the coming year, demonstrating our commitment to Christ's ministry here at FPC Mesa. A Celebration luncheon will then be held following worship in Fellowship Hall with entertainment in the form of a Vaudeville Show presented by our Choir! Don't miss out on this great event!



## October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Carter Buck	3rd
Rita Scriba	5th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Pearl Grace Alvarado	12th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Sam Thielke	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
Penelope Sitzler	16th
David Woods	19th
Dan Reeves	23rd
John McNary	25th
George Montgomery	26th
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katherine McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInelly	30th
Chuck Michel	30th

**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.



**MEET YOUR DEACONS!**  
October 7th and October 21st  
in Fellowship Hall  
during Coffee Time!

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Leigh, Virginia 4929 S. Val Vista Drive, #107 Gilbert, AZ 85298	Sitzler, Dennis 602-799-9090 (Phone change only)
Reid-Hoefer, Betty Jean 826 E. Marilyn Ave. Mesa, AZ 85204 781-228-9365 <a href="mailto:Bettyjeanr22@gmail.com">Bettyjeanr22@gmail.com</a>	Watson, Tom 480-363-2211 (Phone change only)
Reid-Hoefer, Karelle 826 E Marilyn Ave Mesa AZ, 85204 508-816-2394 <a href="mailto:reid.karelle@gmail.com">reid.karelle@gmail.com</a>	

### Calendar Notes

#### October 1

Deacons meet

#### October 3

Men's Fellowship begins meeting

#### October 13

Presbyterian Women of Presbytery Gathering

#### October 21

Ministry Fair

Commissions & Session meet

#### October 27

Mesa Make-a-Difference Day  
(Prep work will be done October 20)

#### October 28

Dedication & Celebration Sunday  
Monthly Food Drive  
**One combined service at 10:00 a.m.**  
Celebration Luncheon  
"A Good Old Vaudeville Show!"

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

See calendar on website:  
[fpcmesa.org/calendar](http://fpcmesa.org/calendar)

**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**

**Ann Conklin, Pastor  
Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries  
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**