



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 50 No. 2

March 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop

"Knowing the Way"

I was talking to Karen Dahlen today about how we know things like music and theology. We agreed that no matter how gifted someone may be it really is a matter of discipline and CONTINUAL learning. To hear Karen play to the glory of God is a gift, but it is a gift that she is able to offer because for her LIFE she has been learning and learning what it means to speak through music.

The same is true for us in our faith. It is not something that is learned and done. We are forever learning the way to belong "body and soul in life and in death, not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ". How will we learn the way this month as we travel toward celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord on the last day of the month? I want to suggest that it will come through "playing our scales" every day in some way. There are a lot of places I know how to get to, simply because I LOVE to be there and to which have worn a literal or figurative path with my head, my heart and my feet. The path to the cross comes from knowing where Jesus went. He did not let himself become distracted. He stayed on the path.

If I know where I need to go I will do the same. How does this happen? I think it happens because we WANT it to happen and we seek the means. An example of this is that Karen doesn't try to practice the piano and watch "Downton Abbey" at the same time! Another example is elder Gloria Macdonald asking me for a list of books and authors to read because she says, "... this electronic/information age is just bombarding us with useless, senseless, godless garbage. I just have to tune it out as much as I can." The only way we can do this is to put our hearts, heads, and feet on the right path because as our late friend elder Ralph Hines would often say, "Nature abhors a vacuum".

So what are we filling our paths with? Is it familiarity with "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable"? (Philippians 4:8) What this Scripture clearly states is that there is A path that leads to where Jesus is going and there are those that DO NOT. This season and all our days for that matter, are the time for becoming increasingly clear with that path and rejecting that which is not.

What paths do we need to step away from? If we are really honest with ourselves, what are we doing, thinking, saying, reading, watching, listening to that are not true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing and commendable by God? This isn't hard to know, but it takes honest discipline to do. I praise God for growing up with examples of people who simply just didn't make time to walk paths that were not God's paths. And if they did they said so and turned around. Watching someone you respect turn around and say with their feet as much as their words, "We're not going that way" is the most effective learning experience we can have. Will we be learners and followers who will live our faith this way?

There will be plenty of **opportunities** for this in **March**. On **Wednesdays** we will have our "**Soul De-Tox**" class. Sunday, **March 17** there is a **class** on what it means to be a **member** of the Church from 3-5 PM. On the evening **March 28** there is our **Tenebrae Communion Maundy Thursday service**. The following day on **Good Friday** we will have our **Stations of the Cross** interactive experience in the sanctuary from noon to 7:00 PM. Of course there is worship each Sunday. And what we read AND let go "between the lines" on our way will put our feet on the path to belonging only to Jesus' way.

My greatest desire in this short life is to be more and more about knowing and belonging to and serving Jesus Christ and less and less about any other path because (and I know this is very exclusive) no other path matters. JESUS said this. HE was exclusive, but he was exclusively inclusive. Only HIS path led to the cross and only the cross can make us whole.

SO, let's go walk THIS path together and invite everyone we know to join us.

Wearing a groove in the road with you,

Bruce

Preparing the Way of the Lord

On the previous page, Bruce challenged us be intentional about our faith journeys – to seek things that build us up and avoid things that lead us astray. I want to talk about the destination. I know from my days as a runner that it is easier to keep moving when aim your eyes as far down the trail as possible. As we walk with our Lord on this earth – what do we expect to happen? Where will faithfulness take us? What fruits are we after?

Personal transformation – God meets us where we are, but he doesn't leave us there. We believe that we are born again of the Spirit. "Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:22-23). We expect that as we walk with Jesus – we will grow to be more like him and enjoy the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (from Galatians 5:22-23).

Eternity with God – I love how the hymn "Amazing Grace" puts it: "When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun." The amazing truth is that our time is so brief compared to eternity that faithfulness – no matter how costly – is always worth it. "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure." (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)

Sharing the Gospel – By grace we have been saved, and we have been saved for a purpose. Jesus does *NOT* say, "Take my silk slippers upon you and snooze for a while." He says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29) We join with Christ to do his work – to call the world to repentance and to receive God's grace. We **witness** the effect of the gospel on our own lives. And we **bear witness** as we tell the world about how we have been changed.

This Lent and Easter, let's keep our eyes on the prize – and "let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Dan

ARE YOU A DING-A-LING?

Do you enjoy listening to the bell choir when it plays? Would you like to play handbells?

Grace Notes is our handbell choir that plays to the glory of God here at First Pres. Carson City. We appreciate your great support and plan to continue playing for as long as energy lasts.

Starting in the fall we will have need for 1 or 2 more ringers. If you have an interest in playing please talk with Paul Weaver now (883-1775). Ringers need to commit to rehearse 1 hour per week at 9am on Wednesdays. Ringers need to be able to read music and be able to physically ring the bells.

If you are interested please talk with me.

Paul Weaver

LOTTIE SCOTT SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Scholarship time is right around the corner. Are you graduating from high school this year? Did you know that your church has a scholarship fund? The Lottie Scott Scholarship Committee invites all graduating high school senior from this congregation to apply for a scholarship. You are eligible to receive this award if you have participated in Sunday School, youth groups or other areas of church activity. Applications may be picked up from the church office and **MUST BE RETURNED BY MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2012**. All scholarship amounts are based on available income. Scholarship amounts are normally \$300 for graduating seniors. Continuing love gifts of \$100 to \$150 are given if funds are available.

Lottie Scott Scholarship Committee:

Betty Anderson, Diane Young and Bette Denning



THE KING'S KIDS – MARCH



...Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' Luke 18:16

Highlights from our Sunday Experience

An exciting thing is happening upstairs in the castle! Kids are bringing their Bibles on Sunday, and when we leaders mention the reference for the Bible story, rustling Bible pages can be heard! The kids want to find the story in their own Bibles! What a joy, to have them begin their love of the Word!!!!



The Israelites were in trouble. for worshipping idols. They prayed out to God.



While Gideon was threshing wheat, an angel appeared & told him he was to lead the people.



Gideon didn't think he could lead the people, so he asked God for a sign by laying out a fleece.



Gideon's soldiers were put to a test. Some put their faces right into the brook to drink the water. These men were told to go home.



300 soldiers stood, and cupped the water in their hands to drink. These men showed they would stay alert. They were chosen to fight the battle.



The soldiers raised their torches and cried: "For the Lord and for Gideon!" God won the battle, using them!

KING'S KIDS SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

Kids experiencing Jesus and community as we walk through God's BIG Story!

- 3/3: "The King is Coming" (Jesus enters Jerusalem to Hosanna: Mark 11)
- 3/10: "Jesus Cleans House" (Jesus clears the Temple: Mark 11)
- 3/17: "Smelly Devotion" (a woman anoints Jesus with perfume: John 12)
- 3/24: "Last Days" (Jesus Died for Me)
- 3/31: "He is RISEN!"



MARCH BIBLE VERSES

Memorize these verses as a family and see how God uses them in your lives!

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

"Keep alert. Stand firm in your faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



Older King's Kids' challenge:

New Testament books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

Mark your calendars!

March 24 (Palm Sunday): 3rd Graders will receive their Bibles!

June 24 – 28 (evenings): Vacation Bible Experience (formerly Vacation Bible School)

- and -

Be planning ahead for Summer Day Camp! (Brochures available!)



Worship -- Are We Seeking God?

What do you think of when you read the above question? Do you wonder why you need to seek God, since He already knows where you are? Perhaps you wonder whether God is even thinking about you. Maybe you don't think about God so He needn't think about you, thank you.

I've been reading a book called "The Way of the Worshiper", by Buddy Owens. He talks about how God can be found in the day to day, moment by moment. He is in our living and breathing --remember it is God issued breath! Buddy sees himself as an average person, nothing too earthshaking in his life; wife, kids, no great wealth, not famous -- just a regular guy. But -- he has this way of honing in on the important things in life -- maybe I should say the important THING in life: knowing God. He doesn't think that he has "arrived", nor that he has it "all together". He realizes that he exists solely for God's purposes. Have you ever looked at your life that way? It really changes my focus!

In Romans (12) Paul says, "1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (NIV)

In my February Trumpet article I talked a little about what worship looks like: obedience, surrender, honesty and openness. This passage from Romans doesn't tell us to beat ourselves up, but it does say to move away from the pattern of this world (something that Bruce has talked about recently), to be transformed by reading God's thoughts (the Bible), to pray so that we can find out what God's will is for us (that is transforming as well). Worship is not just done in a large (or small) sanctuary with others, it is also done in quiet and not so quiet moments (think arrow prayers) of our lives. Do we look for God in all our encounters throughout our day? We will not know the total consummation of worshipping God until we arrive in heaven, but for now we can pursue Him with all our being -- and that will make all the difference to us and to others with whom we interact! Buddy talks about the paradox of of being found by God and yet having to always search for Him. He illustrates this by asking us to think of lost sheep. Once the sheep has been found by the shepherd, it spends the rest of its life pursuing the shepherd, following his lead, listening for his voice. We have sheep and shepherds here in Northern Nevada. If you get an opportunity to see them, take note of how the sheep behave with the shepherd.

Lastly, for now, Buddy talks about sensing God's presence daily and moment by moment in his life, not because God decided to "show up", but because Buddy (or you or I) decided to show up. Are we making ourselves available to God? Do we realize that even though we are sinful, inconsistent and insecure, God takes delight and pleasure when we show up to be present with Him? We all have equal access to God -- are we connecting with Him daily?

For corporate worship opportunities and rehearsals in the month of March, please see the calendar in the Trumpet. Worship is not done just by the folks on the platform -- it is offered in a variety of ways throughout the church, throughout the week and throughout our lives for God and for His blessing.

In His service,

Karen

DESERT SCHOONERS CHILI COOK-OFF THANKS

Thanks to the efforts of so many people, the 2013 Chili Cook-Off was a fun night. Of course those who brought their delicious chili are to be especially thanked. It seems that many of us ran out of room before we ran out of desire. Without those who assumed the many different responsibilities the evening could not have been a success. These responsibilities include, but they are not limited to, the food, set up and clean up, the very appropriate decorations, the contributions to the raffle, conducting the raffle, the great music, those who judged the chili, and the many people who came to have an enjoyable evening.

The winners were Jenny Scanland (first), Dawn Berger (second), and Karen Tierney (third). Congratulations to all three winners! The net proceeds will be used for various church projects as determined by the Desert Schooners.

Chuck Beattie, Chairman of Chili Cook-of Committee



Month Birthdays

Names omitted in online version for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 2-19-13

Names omitted in online version for privacy

DEACON CORNER

Welcome to our new Deacons, Margo Weaver, Dede Stevens and Doug and Lynne Morton. Thanks to Anne Johnson, Jane and John Hancock and Ken Pearson for continuing their terms. Sandy Hatchell
Deacon Moderator

PER CAPITA

Our Per Capita check for \$10,395.00 is cut and has been sent to our Clerk of Nevada Presbytery. At this time we have received \$6,935 for this expense. Have you paid your part? It is only \$35.00 per member this year and we have 330 members. We know that it is difficult for some to pay extra so that is OK, but if you can please step up for this first of the year large expense. There are gold Per Capita envelopes in the pews. Or you can just mark Per Capita in the memo section of your check. We thank you for your gifts for the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

OUR ANNUAL ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING will be received on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

DESERT SCHOONERS

Come join us on Tuesday, March 26 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall for fun, food and fellowship. Keith Macdonald will talking to us on "Pharmaceuticals of Interest to the Consumer. Pizza is being provided by Roy & Shirley Parks, and as usual drinks and dessert will also be provided. For more information call Sandy Ehresman at 885-8230.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins Sunday, March 10.

SPRINGTIME AT ZEPHYR POINT 2013

Remember Spring workday is Saturday, May 4th!! **Change in dates:** The Fall work weekend is now the last weekend in September, the 27th – 29th. If you marked your calendar after last month's Trumpet, change it now.

MISSION NEWS -- It is not necessary to make a separate or special designation of our offerings to mission because the session has put 10% of our operating budget into mission for the committee. Any funds marked as "mission" will be part of the 10%. Thank you for being so faithful!



Month Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy

FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Names omitted in online version for privacy

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MARCH 2013

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THE TRUMPET

Published by the
First Presbyterian Church
115 N. Division St.

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306 West Musser Street
Carson City, NV 89703
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The Rev. Dan Aument
The Rev. Pat Hardy
Pastoral Counselor

Worship Services

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to sandy@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Bette Denning.

March Trumpet and Sermons

March 3 – “Thirsting for God”
Psalm 63:1-8

March 10 – “Wanting the Father”
Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

March 17 – “Knowing the Goal”
Philippians 3:4b-16

March 24 – Palm Sunday “Welcoming the King”
Luke 19:28-40

March 28 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM -
“My Feet, Your Feet”,
John 13 - Tenebrae

March 31 – Easter – “They Remembered His Words”
Luke 24:1-12