



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 50 No. 3

April 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop

"WHERE TO FROM EASTER?"

I find it very significant that the Sunday after Easter is often a very low attendance Sunday in churches around America. The week before, the sanctuary is quite full and the message of the Resurrection is proclaimed in word and music. This is the message of eternity. I know some people feel like, "Well, yes, it's inspiring, but I heard it and I'll come back and hear it again next year, maybe." I don't mean this as a criticism, but simply a comment on how culturally we have lost touch with the need for the eternal.

Maybe it's because I AM getting older and perhaps because I deal with the literal nature of death so often, but I find more and more I need to be into with the promise of eternity. More and more I realize I'm not going to be here forever. But there IS forever. If people are banking on there being no eternity, all I can say is, "They better HOPE they are right!" Because if they are not, (and the Bible says they aren't) there are some MAJOR consequences that they will need to deal with.

The greatest consequence is that of not being with God. See, we were created with a need for God. There is a yearning for something more than all the very best there is in this life. Jesus came as God in person to show us this and to give his life to be our bridge back into relationship with God. That connection was broken in a way WE could never reestablish when we rebelled against God and went our own way. Jesus' death and resurrection redeem that broken relationship, but God does not force anyone back into it. We have to want that relationship.

Where we go from Easter is into a new day of living into that relationship and it can only be known through what Jesus called, "His body" the Church. Easter is the beginning of a new life, but it is only a beginning. It is a call to a personal relationship that needs to grow every day of the rest of our journey in this life. That growth happens as we come together to worship and pray and praise and learn and serve day in and out. Something deep and mysterious happens as we enter into this devotion and only those who make this a lifestyle ever really learn about this relationship.

This month and in months to come we will be exploring what it means to BE the Church; the body of Christ as each Sunday we gather to worship around the book of the Acts of the Apostles. The word "apostle" means, "one who is sent out". Together we will discover where God is sending us from Easter and each week we will gather back to tell of our adventures and to praise God for the opportunity to be his witnesses.

So where DO we go from Easter? We go with Jesus into the world with his saving word of grace.

Joyfully discovering what this means with you in HIM,

Bruce

WE, THE CHURCH, EXIST FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR NON-MEMBERS

During my preparation for a confirmation lesson on the church, I came across a list of potential problems for congregations. One caught my attention. Dan Migliore writes: “Not only is religious belief and practice individualized in modern culture, it also assumes a *privatized* form. That is, the world of work and public affairs is separated from the world of domesticity, leisure, personal nurture, and religion. The process of privatization severs the message and mission of the church from the larger questions and struggles of life. If any purpose of the church is recognized, it is to serve the needs of private individuals and small homogeneous groups.” (from *Faith Seeking Understanding*) In other words, we settle into a “holy huddle” where the church exists only for our benefit.

We are blessed to have a very enjoyable church. We have fun together. We love laughing together. We know we’re not perfect, and that’s the whole point. We share in God’s redeeming love together. ¹⁰“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:10)

The comfort that comes from Christian community is a blessing from God, but we can’t stop there. God has established us as his people to bring comfort to the whole world, namely through bringing people to know and trust Christ. We can’t proclaim the good news to the world if we’re too busy enjoying our holy huddle.

Consider the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had all the communion they could ever need, yet God chose to create us and love us. And when we rebelled and pushed God away, God made us co-heirs with Christ at great expense to the original fellowship. Jesus was forsaken by God (Mark 15:34) so that we could be adopted into the family.

Here’s how I think it is supposed to work: God invites us into his family where we receive all the love, forgiveness, and support we could ever need. We enjoy this as a gift, but we know that we are being strengthened so that we can be sent out to invite still more people to join the family. ³“We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴“We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:3-4) Abiding in Christ does not mean snoozing in Christ. We are saved *for a reason*.

I’ll use our youth group as an example. We have a solid core of youth members who are very active. We enjoy spending time together. We have shared jokes and rituals, and sometimes even I can’t keep track of them all. Our task now is to invite more people in to our group so that they may come to know God. Welcoming new people takes work: you have to be persistent, generous, and willing to share. It means we have to go out of our way and often our comfort zone to make others feel welcome. It’s tempting to stay in the shelter of our holy huddle, but the young people of Carson City need to know Christ and be reconciled to God.

I have a challenge for us. Bruce’s benediction contains this line: “Christ who indwells us has something He wants to do through us where we are.” How hard do we look for that “something” that Christ wants to do through us? If we want to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind, let’s search for that “something.” Wherever we go, let’s ask ourselves if Christ could use us to invite people into His fellowship and work passionately to deliver that invitation in whatever shape it may take. *Further reading: Philippians 1*

God is good,

Dan

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

For those who need it, there are wheel chairs, potty chairs, raised toilet seats, crutches, walkers, etc. in our garage to be used by members of our congregation. Just come to the church office and someone can let you see what we have available.



THE KING'S KIDS – APRIL



...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

Message from Nancy

Thank you all so much for your support of our Kids' ministry here at FPC! In March, I attended the Children's Pastor's Conference (sponsored by International Network of Children's Ministry) in San Diego. The keynote speakers spoke to my heart and renewed my spirit. The seminars I attended were encouraging and challenging. I was reminded time and again of what a wonderful, supportive FAMILY we are, here at FPC – something that's fairly unique, and something for which we should be constantly thankful and continue to build!

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!!!!



God gave Samson great strength.
(Ryan)



Snack: Marshmallow "dumb-bells" or "little Samson"
(Brett)



(Hannah & Emily)



KING'S KIDS SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

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

- 4/7: "Rejected at Nazareth" (Jesus rejected in His home town: Luke 4)
- 4/14: "Choosing the Best" (Jesus talks with Mary & Martha: Luke 10)
- 4/21: "Thank Jesus" (1 healed leper thanks Jesus: Luke 17)
- 4/28: "The Good Neighbor" (Jesus tells story of Good Samaritan: Luke 10)



APRIL BIBLE VERSES

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

**Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice;
I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27**

You, God, are my God; earnestly I seek you..." Psalm 63:1

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

**"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!

April 19th 7-9 p.m.: Family Game Night & Pizza

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

- and -

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



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM –

Worth-ship –

No, that's not a typo, but one definition of the English word "worship". Here's another: Mercy -- "a disposition or inclination to forgive and to be kind." You may be thinking, ok, how does this work together and what does all this have to do with me?

Well the two are connected by God. It is in God's nature to have mercy on us and to forgive us. Because of this mercy which is God's "default", we can boldly approach His throne in worship. But only He alone is worthy of worship. What other god loves sinners? Even when they sin? What other god would allow himself to be crucified for all in order to create a way back into his presence?

As I mentioned in my last article, I've been reading Buddy Owens's short book called "The Way of the Worshiper" (©2002, 2004, published by Purpose Driven Publishing). In the book, Buddy explains the "whys" and "hows" of worship. He relates it to his own experiences as a dad, teacher, pastor, and child of God. Its an easy read and I highly recommend it.

Buddy asks the question: "What's God worth to you?" He points out that our hunger for God is actually God-given. Everything we do for God is in response to what God has done for us. We even breathe because He gives us breath. How about this -- we are holy because God gives us holiness. We do not earn it by being a servant to God, we do not repent in order to earn forgiveness, we do not serve Him to become His child. He already loves us as His child, as He loves every other person He has placed on this earth. So with that in mind, as regards worship, let us not come to see if God "shows up" -- remember He is already here (in our lives, in our church, in our moment by moment days) -- we just need to see through the God-lens, or His eyes. May WE "show up" to engage with God!

For musical opportunities to serve in worship, see the April Calendar.

Looking for God in each step of the journey –

Karen

Thank you for your prayers and inquiries about our grandson Joel. All of his tests have come back 'normal'. The doctors are treating his episode as a one time thing, and he has not had any further incidences.

Blessings, Karen and Carl Dahlen

DEACON CORNER

Deacon Sunday is April 14th between services. For those of you who come to second service, come early! This is a wonderful time to meet your deacon and for your deacon to meet you! If you do not know what zone you are in, there will be a map set up in the FLC with all the zones marked on it. Find your address and you will know what zone you live in and can go to the deacon that represents that zone. We will have food for you to enjoy so please join us. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Kay Keeton, who delivers the beautiful sanctuary flowers each week, needs "Large Sanctuary Vases" as she is running low on flower vases for Sunday. She has plenty smallish ones and a ton of bud vases so only asking for the normal large ones. Call her at 841-3991 and she will come and pick them up.

Sandy Hatchell



GRACEWORKS

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Introducing GraceWorks. Others have called it “The Church has left the Building!” This is a Sunday when area churches show God’s love through *providing* services, rather than *going to* services. It is an event that has been going on in several other communities across the US, involving thousands of people on a given Sunday. The First Presbyterian Church started it here in Carson City two years ago; last year The Door to The Way, an Hispanic church, joined them. Over 150 people participated. This year the First United Methodist Church and the Fountainhead Four Square Church will be joining the effort.

You can volunteer to provide labor, time, music or just a personal touch. These projects will be done in the community, on Sunday, June 2, 2013.

Examples of projects, among others, from which volunteers can choose:

- Linear Park and Governors’ Field clean up and painting sheds and curbs
- Conducting music and worship at Carson Plaza and other Assisted Living Centers
- Do Drop In, a day center for homeless with disabilities – repair work
- Planting flowers at the Senior Center
- Doing gardening at Fremont Elementary School
- Preparing meal bags for “Stop Hunger Now” or Blessing Bags for the homeless
- Helping people with home repair
- Food for Thought - cleaning and organizing
- Children’s Museum – repair work – some can be done by families
- Community Pregnancy Center, 222 E. Washington St.
- Small Blessings Preschool – make preparations for playground upgrade
- A project at FISH
- Greenhouse at Carson High School – following a plant sale the previous day, distribute remaining plants and clean up

As worshipers exit a local church sanctuary, the sign over the door says, “You are now entering the mission field.” What better way to show God’s love than by helping those in need right here at home!

To volunteer, sign-up sheets will be available each Sunday in May, in the narthex.

For more information on GraceWorks, please contact Rob Scanland at 883-2490 or rscanland@charter.net or the First Presbyterian Church at 882-1032.

Blessings and grace to you and yours.

GRACE WORKS RUMMAGE SALE!

In-gathering Friday, April 26, 2013
Bring donations to Family Life Center
SALE Saturday April 27 - (New date)
For further information: Carol Wilson
883-3198 or carolw40@sbcglobal.net



April Birthdays

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 03-20-2013

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

MAY 4th is ZEPHYR POINT

DAY! We will meet at 8:15 next to ZP office to begin a variety of mission work projects. Break for lunch (free) and fellowship (priceless) at 11:45, and wend our weary way home around 4:30. Join us for fun in the sun at 7100 feet. SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE NOW ON THE MISSION BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX.

SEPTEMBER 27-29 is ZEPHYR POINT WORK AND WORSHIP WEEKEND!

Pastor Bruce will lead us in this marvelous fellowship time, with a little work thrown in. More details later.

SPRING FRIENDSHIP

SUPPER is planned for Saturday evening, May 11th. To host see Marylee Branson. (Guest sign ups will begin after hosts are setup.)

FAMILY GAME (Wii) and pizza night is April 19th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

APRIL TRUMPET

Information and articles are due Monday, April 22nd.

NEW BOOK AT WOMEN'S TUESDAY STUDY

April 2nd we will be starting a new study at the Women's Bible Study group that meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at San Rafael Coffee Company, 711 S Carson Street (across from Arco station) Yes, we know that is early but what a wonderful fellowship/study/support group it is! We welcome you to begin the study of the Holy Spirit with us. We will be using R.C. Sproul's book "The Mystery of the Holy Spirit" Come and see how the Holy Spirit is a part of all of our lives.

DESERT SCHOONERS

Come join Desert Schooners at our monthly meeting on April 23. at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Bartosz will be sharing some of the functions of "Partnership, Carson". Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided. For more information call Sandy Ehresman at 885-8230.



April Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

APRIL 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM DEACONS	2 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite	3 9:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 9:00 AM Grace Notes 11:30 AM PRAYER	4 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station 6:00 PM iMarriage Study	5 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 12:00 PM O. A.	6 9:00 AM O.A. (Lib)																																																																																											
7 8:30 AM NURSERY 9:00 AM Sunday School 12:00 PM SOS LUNCH 3:00 PM New Member Class 5:00 PM Oasis Youth Group	8 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Praise Team	9 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite 5:30 PM MISSION COMMITTEE 7:00 PM ALL COMMITTEES	10 9:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 9:00 AM Grace Notes 11:30 AM PRAYER 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	11 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station 1:30 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	12 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 12:00 PM O. A.	13 9:00 AM O.A. (Lib)																																																																																											
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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.

APRIL SERMONS

- April 7: "A New Beginning" Acts 1:1-11
April 14: "The Healing One" Acts 3:1-16
April 21: "A New Life" Acts 3:17-26
April 28 – "Confessing Christ" Acts 4:1-22