



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 50 No. 7

September 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop

I love to throw a baseball. It just fits in your hand. I think even Pastor Dan loves to throw a baseball. It just says, "Toss me". For as long as I can remember I have loved to do this. I learned from my dad and we would throw a lot. I still throw hundreds of baseballs back on to the field at WNC when I walk the dogs in the hills.

As I grew up I became a pitcher, but I could never throw very hard so I taught myself to throw a knuckleball. It is a pitch that goes very slowly so that part I had down, but it also doesn't spin and (hopefully) because it doesn't spin it dances in ways no one knows or can predict.

There is only one knuckleball pitcher in the majors today, but Tim Wakefield who retired last year, threw this crazy pitch for 17 years in the majors. It takes a lot of confidence in something the rest of the world doesn't really understand, to throw a knuckleball to hitters who are used to 100 mile-per-hour pitches. I remember the first time I threw one in a game and thought, what if it doesn't work? But it did.

I think the Gospel is the same way. Giving, risking, doing, life based on following Jesus' example doesn't make sense by the world's standards. We could say what if it doesn't work? But it is what we have. It is who we are. And we have to trust that God made us to deliver his best by pouring out what he has given us. We place our confidence in Jesus Christ and do not let the things of this world and culture, keep us from this. This is what it means to "go the distance".

When Tim Wakefield was nearing the end of his career he could have made more money by becoming a "free agent" but he knew he was where he was meant to be and that Boston was right for his family so he did what no other player had ever done before: he signed a contract with a perpetual option that guaranteed the team would have his services year after year but for much less than he could have demanded if he signed for a just a year or two.

We know where we belong. We know for whom we are meant to play and going the distance as the body of Christ in this place is what we were created for. We live for the glory of God so that at the end we will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

In our weekly Bible study a term was coined today. We are to be "Vassal Vessels". This means we are servants at God's disposal to pour out what God knows the world needs. It may be strange to the world, but it is the sweet aroma of God's grace that is so needed. And we get to *stay* in Christ's body doing what he is equipping us to do in delivering this.

If you would like to know more about becoming a "member of the team" by joining this band of believers at the First Presbyterian Church I will be leading a time of inquiry and understanding of our mission on September 22 with a lunch following the second hour of worship. Please let us know if you would like to join us so we know how many will be at lunch.

There's a lot of "free agency" going on around us in the world. People are looking for the "best contract offer" but when we know we have already been given forever, we don't need to go anywhere looking for something better. What we CAN do is find others who don't know about going the distance with Jesus and invite them on to the field. It's as simple as asking someone, "Hey, you wanna play catch?" Try it. There's someone waiting to be asked by YOU.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Bruce

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL?

At the end of August, Leslie, Lucy, and I traveled out east. It was Lucy's first trip to that part of the country, and aunts, uncles and many others were very excited to meet her. Leslie and I attended my tenth high school reunion, and I got to spend time talking with several of my good friends from high school. I had many non-Christian or marginally Christian friends back then, so I had several opportunities to try to explain why we do what we do as Christians. I'll try to share my impressions from those conversations with you.

People know the basic shape of the Gospel. No one seems startled when you mention that Jesus came or was sent to die for our sins. They've heard that somewhere, and you have to assume that they haven't yet chosen to ask any follow-up questions or they haven't been intrigued by any early answers they've received. They might have a basic understanding of what happens on a Sunday morning. A significant other of one of my good friends was curious about how pastors get paid. I told him that people are very generous.

They know that church is about community. My friends all agreed that community is important. They had some kind of community that they valued (often family). I didn't get the impression that they thought that church community was special or superior to other kinds of fellowship - just one healthy option among many.

They agree it's important to believe in something. I don't know how many times I heard people say, "Well, as long as you believe *something*." People have a sense that it's no good to be completely disconnected from some system of truth. It seems like many of the people with whom I spoke got connected with their system of truth via their family of origin or some other external circumstances.

They are aware that some churches are welcoming and helpful and some are not. I never had anyone recoil in disgust or become suspicious when I told them that I was a pastor. Everyone knows that churches like Westboro Baptist (infamous for using any sort of media attention to promote a confused message of hate) exist, and my friends assumed that our church was nothing like that. I imagine that they would think that any church I would be a part of would have to be at least as friendly and welcoming as I am.

How do we help our non-Christian and marginally Christian friends learn more about the truth of the Gospel? I know my impressions are mostly vague, but I think we can use them to improve our explanation of the Gospel.

If people are familiar with the general outline of the Gospel, but haven't come to the conclusion that they are in need of the grace that comes through Jesus Christ, then they probably think that things aren't that bad or that the Gospel applies to a situation in which they are not. As Christ's witnesses, we can help them grow in understanding of the Gospel by explaining how it has applied to our own particular circumstances. How has Jesus helped you with your family? How has Jesus helped you with your own particular struggles?

If people think that the church is about community, we should seek to share that community with them! Christian fellowship is more than just camaraderie and shared experiences. Only through experience can anyone learn that in Christ we have one body, one spirit, and one hope.

If people agree it's important to believe in something, we should ask them to tell us about their beliefs. People appreciate being heard; they don't appreciate being handed a list of theological and cultural ideas and being told to "toe the line." Americans place a lot of value on learning things for themselves. Listen first (paying attention to their values, hopes, and fears) and then share your story about how you found out about Jesus.

If people know that some Christian churches are good and others are not, invite them to come and see how our church fits into that mix. People are attracted to humility and genuineness. Share the ups *and* the downs that you have experienced in your attempts to be faithful to Christ. Our goal isn't to get people to commit to our church (and Jesus) after a single interaction. Our goal is to build trust and to rely on the work of God's Holy Spirit.

Dan



THE KING'S KIDS – SEPTEMBER



...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

MANY THANKS to the leaders of our

Summer Sunday Experience - SON-HARVEST FARM:

(Where kids learned about cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit)

Thanks to: Sarah Adler; Linda Krug; Carol Paz; Nina Sattely; Dede Stevens; Sheryl, Megan & Morgan Tingle; Stacey Warwick; and Lynne Weaver



Some of our SON-Harvest Farm Farmhands

Summer Day Camp at Zephyr Point Memories

Our kids had a BLAST at camp! They were asked 2 questions: (1) What was your favorite thing about Camp? (2) What new thing did you learn that will help you as you grow in following Jesus? Here are their answers:

- Sam (3rd grade): favorite activity was canoeing. "I learned that we are all imperfect."
- Emily (5th grade): favorite thing about camp was going canoeing and paddle boarding. "It was also a good place to learn about God. The counselors were cool. We learned about "fruits of the spirit." It's a good prayer list."
- Aley (2nd grade): favorite thing was swimming and singing. She learned that "only God can fix things." They had a picture of a milkshake and they had to scribble on it and mix it up, to illustrate that they could not fix it, only God could.
- Robert (2nd grade): favorite thing was the music. The new thing he learned is that, "The more you sin, the faster you die."

King's Kids Bible Experience

We begin our Walk through the King's Book on September 8th
(Also the Sunday we go back to two services: 9:00 Worship & King's Kids and 10:45 Worship)
This fall we'll be looking at Samuel's, King Saul's, David's and Solomon's lives.

September Bible Verses:

Memorize these verses as a family and see how God uses it in your lives!
"Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:5, 6

- and- Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus & Deuteronomy



First of all, I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and beautiful cards during my surgery and recovery period. We have felt the power of God surrounding us because of you!

Worship -- Thank You

In reviewing the book "The Way of the Worshiper", I have run across a very simple, but profound truth: Worship begins with saying "thank you". It's especially appropriate that I have reached this point in this book on worship at this time. I've just come through a surgery -- one that I wondered whether it would ever happen -- and then I wondered if it SHOULD happen -- and then I wondered if it happened, would I ever recover the way I thought I needed to. Perhaps you have experienced just this thing. Last month, I realized that the timing and the difficulty of the decision-making process was God's timing and the darkness that I was experiencing in the decision-making process was God's protection. He has orchestrated it all! And He is healing in His time. My job is to say, "Thank you Lord that I have come this far and You have carried me the entire way -- leaving nothing to chance -- from the faith of the surgeon, to provision of a chair to be used in the recovery, to providing Jamie Gilson and her very talented children to play during my recovery!" Also, Lord, thank you for Wil, Kit, Shirley and Dennis for leading the congregation during my absence.

Gratitude is the gateway to worship. Saying "thank you" is a way to declare the glory of God according to Buddy Owens in his book. Buddy says that saying "thank you" keeps us in a heart posture of humility and surrender. I like that picture. It reminds us that our lives are in each other's hands -- and in God's hands. Here's another simple truth regarding thankfulness: Thankfulness and resentment cannot exist together in the same heart. That keeps me asking, "am I thankful"? Thankfulness accepts everything that comes my way, whether good or bad (remember, I cannot always tell what is truly good and what is truly bad for me). Resentment keeps me so busy looking at what is missing that I cannot see what has been given.

So, I choose to be thankful. It's a discipline. And one that needs to be exercised daily, maybe even moment by moment -- especially on the days that are crazy. Thank you to my church family for faithfully lifting me (us) up in prayer and thank you to The Lord that I am being healed (as we all are) and am here to thank you for your support!

Gratefully,
Karen (and Carl)

Praise Team returns to services on Sunday, September 1st and the Chancel Choir returns to services on Sunday, September 15th. See the calendar elsewhere in this newsletter for rehearsal details. Please join us in making music for The Lord as we enter the fall season.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: We will be studying Isaiah and looking at how this book so announces Jesus as the Messiah. This will be the schedule: We will begin September 4th and continue on September 11th. We will be off on September 18th because of Presbytery and resume on September 25th. We will be off on October 2nd and on throughout the rest of October.

TRIBUTE TO DICK MALMBERG On September 15 we will do a tribute to Dick Malmberg for his service to PCUSA during the announcement time. There will be a luncheon in the family Life Center after the service.

ON SEPTEMBER 8TH we will return to two worship services, 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM.

"4 or More"

Enjoy your Sunday meal after or before services at Empire Ranch Golf *Mallards* restaurant. Let them know that you are from First Presbyterian Church. The church will receive 10% back of the gross meal receipt. There must be at least 4 in attendance. This is yet another way to give back to the church. You enjoy a lovely meal and the church will benefit

STORM 2013 by Eleanor Keep Harle

Into this desert I call My Own comes a wind that fiercely blows It howls and whips the sand that stings my skin, blinds my eyes, obscures the scene. Thunder rolls, lightning scars the sky. They pierce my soul.

“How did I get to where I am?” “How will I move from here?”

The map is torn. No arrows point the way. I see no road. Rocks, boulders, hills surround, no trees, no fields, no bits of green, eternal stone.

“Where, oh Lord, are You?” “Where, oh Lord, Your peace?”

The thunder and the wind obscure; my ears are shut, your voice unheard.

“I called you here.”

I wrap my soul within myself and blindly stumble on. My soul is dry, my thirst unquenched.

And then, from where I cannot say, comes a river, full and wide fierce and rolling, surging down, flooding bank to bank.

“How, oh Lord, to drink?”

Upon my knees then prostrate stretch; I cannot stand if I would drink.

Beside that stream beneath the storm the air is still, the water calm.

Above – beyond – My desert waits.

Yet when I rise to face that storm -- that desert bleak that tears my soul -- I find that they are gone.

And so I learn that You, Oh Lord, redeem with love my soul. And in the desert that You made, Your storm my soul does fill.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

The following are two facilities we donate to:

Friends In Service Helping – FISH

F – Food in our dining room and from a food pantry

I – Independence through information, referrals and accountability

S – Shelter, both emergency and transitional

H – Healthcare in our free clinic

Our Carson City complex can provide hot food, hot showers, warm coats, clothing, bed, shelter meals. Laundry.

Rural Center for Independent Living and “Do Drop In”

We assist people with some kind of disability to get off the streets and stay off successfully.

A friendly place to have coffee

A place to use the phone or receive messages

A place to receive things you need to survive on the streets

ADDRESS FOR Don & Eleanor Harle: 1409 W. Dow Rummel St. #319, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57104



September Birthdays

Names omitted in online version for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of August 21, 2013

Names omitted in online version for privacy

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th. The Sunday morning adult Bible study class will commence. Don Churchill will guide us through the study of Revelations. These classes will continue until Christmas time. All are welcome to come and have the revelations revealed to you in an easy to understand study.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP will begin their 2013-14 year on September 12th in the church library at 1:30 PM, using the Horizon workbook. "An Abiding Hope: the Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy".

Janice Catron, author, is a pastor at John Knox Presbyterian Church USA in Knoxville, holding a doctorate in Bible study. She wrote the Horizons workbook "Faith Returns When Understanding Fails" in 1997.

The workbook gives an abundance of information in 9 lessons September through May the 2nd Thursday of each month. The workbook can be ordered for \$8.00.

COME JOIN THE DESERT SCHOONERS for their first fall meeting. Listen to Kit Le Fevre as he entertains us on September 24th at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. For more information, call Sandy Ehresman at 885-8230.

DEACON CORNER:

After taking the summer off, our first meeting of the fall is September 9th at 6:30 PM. Mark your calendars for the fall Deacon Sunday, October 13th during coffee hour. This is a wonderful time to meet and get to know your deacon and sample all the different goodies. Hope to see all of you there!

FALL FRIENDSHOP SUPPER has been changed to October 5th. Call George Branson for information.



September Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
1 9:30 AM NURSERY 10:00 AM Sunday School <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">10:00 AM Worship</div> 12:00 PM SOS LUNCH	2 Office Closed, Labor Day 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 PM Basketball	3 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite	4 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 9:00 AM Grace Notes 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM PRAYER 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	5 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 12:00 PM O. A.	7 9:00 AM O.A. (Lib)																																																																																																			
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Pastors

The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier
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.

September Sermons

September 1-- "Tell Someone" Acts 20:17-38

September 8 -- "Almost Persuaded" Acts 26:24-32

We return to two worship services, 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM on this Sunday.

September 15 -- "Gratitude for Mercy" 1 Timothy 1:12-17

September 22-- "Just the Facts" Acts 28:17-31

September 29 -- "Come Away" Mark 6:30-34