



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 07

September 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Adaptive change is my topic for this month's Trumpet article. Adaptive change.

Tod Bolsinger wrote a book entitled "Canoeing The Mountains." He used the example of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explain what is adaptive change. Specifically, Lewis and Clark were charged with the responsibility of exploring the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. As Bolsinger wrote, "They believed, like everyone before them, that the unexplored west was exactly the same geography as the familiar east. [Theirs] is the story of what [happened] when they discovered that they – and everyone else before them – had been wrong." (p.13)

The gist of their discovery was that they encountered the Rocky Mountains. They had been looking for and expecting a water route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. They had prepared and stocked their canoes. Then, they were looking at mountains – mountains that the canoes would not cross.

That disruption in course is adaptive change. Their purpose of exploration remained the same, but all their techniques and strategies needed to be re-thought. Bolsinger wrote, "The changing world around us and even the success we had experienced had brought us to a new place where we would need a new strategy. To paraphrase Marshall Goldsmith, 'What got us *here* wouldn't take us *there*.'" (p. 19)

To see how we respond to adaptive change, just consider life in the 1970's versus life today – compare the impact of our lives with the advent of the computer age and the internet. It's a bit different. It is difficult for our children to imagine life with three network channels, broadcast radio, and landline telephones that you have to rotary dial with your finger.

My arrival here to serve as pastor caused some changes. Those changes were more about style and preferences than disruption. The gospel remains unchanged. The Great Commission remains unchanged. The worship services and many activities continued, slightly modified, but someone who came to visit after being away would recognize most of what is happening.

And then came this pandemic. This pandemic is a more sudden change. It absolutely disrupted the plans and strategies we had for developing ministry and reaching out into the community. Everything came to a stop.

Now, going into our sixth month of this new environment, we are recognizing that things are not going to simply return to how they were. The truth is, "What got us *here* won't take us *there*."

We are in the midst of adaptive change. The gospel remains the same. The Great Commission remains our charge. *How* we pursue the Great Commission is where the change is taking place. The simplest illustration is that we have had to focus on electronic media ministry. Electronic media ministry was not a priority at the beginning of March this year; frankly, it was not even on the radar.

In the short term, the only way for the congregation to share a worship experience has been through the videos we have posted on YouTube. (Imagine *that* sentence being uttered in the 1970's.) In the longer term – as the safety measures have continued beyond weeks and into months, and as we look forward and contemplate what impact these changes will have in the years ahead – we are looking at other paradigm-shifting realities.



(continues on page 2)

Throughout all my career, one of the truths has been that we have sought to do ministry by gathering the largest number of people together to worship, study, fellowship, evangelize, and serve. Whether in the sanctuary, youth ministry, study groups, mission projects, or retreats, we always prayed and hoped that many people would attend.

Not so much, now. The canoes that got us here are not going to take us over the mountains we face.

The paradigm-shift has been to ministry in much smaller contexts. How do we reach and share gospel fellowship with one family at time, a person at a time, or with just as few people as possible involved in the production? How do we reach the lost, searching, hurting, and seeking in our community when we are socially distancing?

I have come a long way to make this point: the next season of our life and ministry together are going to be filled with experimentation and change. Not all of it is going to be successful, and not all of it is going to be smooth. We are in for a bit of a bumpy ride. Just as we are learning technology, so we are re-learning how to do relationships and to build community.

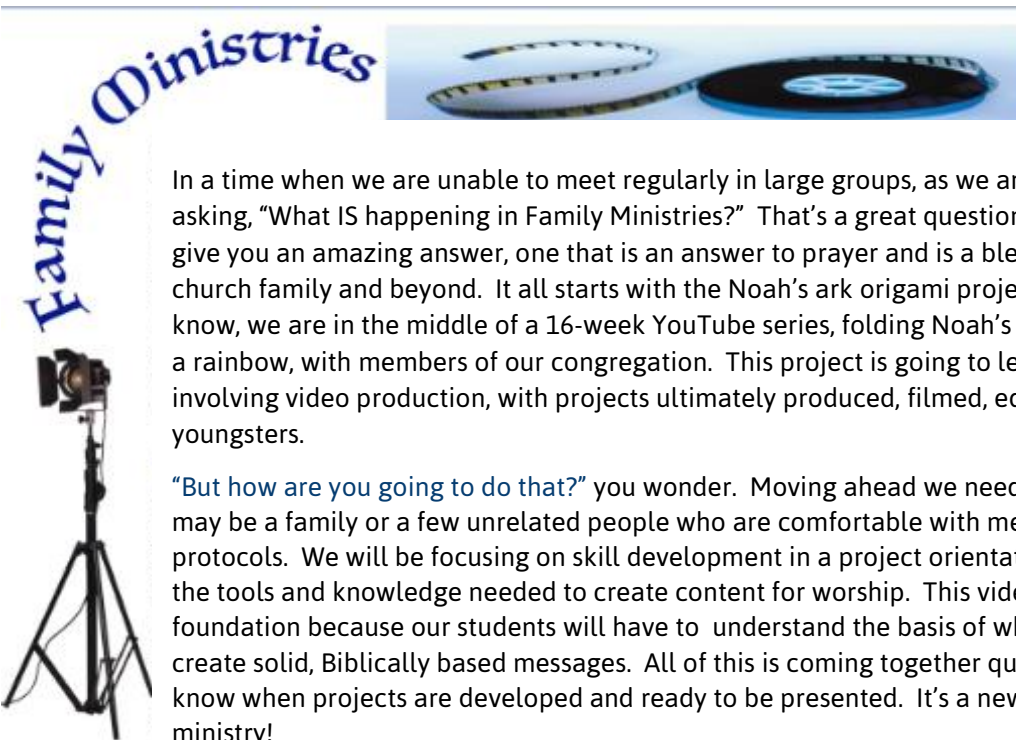
Here's my ask of you: please pray for the congregation, leadership, and staff as we navigate these new territories together. Be patient and know that we are going to need to give grace to one another. Perhaps this word from Paul to the Colossians says it best:

Col. 3:12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

If we can do that, I am confident that God will use our example as a shining witness to the community into which we have been sent as His ambassadors.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



Family Ministries

In a time when we are unable to meet regularly in large groups, as we are used to doing, you may be asking, "What IS happening in Family Ministries?" That's a great question, and I'm excited to be able to give you an amazing answer, one that is an answer to prayer and is a blessing and encouragement to our church family and beyond. It all starts with the Noah's ark origami project. As you probably already know, we are in the middle of a 16-week YouTube series, folding Noah's ark – Noah, the ark, animals, and a rainbow, with members of our congregation. This project is going to lead into bigger and better things involving video production, with projects ultimately produced, filmed, edited, and presented by our youngsters.

"But how are you going to do that?" you wonder. Moving ahead we need to focus on small groups. That may be a family or a few unrelated people who are comfortable with meeting, while following safety protocols. We will be focusing on skill development in a project orientation, giving students and families the tools and knowledge needed to create content for worship. This video projects ill have a theological foundation because our students will have to understand the basis of what they are presenting in order to create solid, Biblically based messages. All of this is coming together quickly, and we will be sure you know when projects are developed and ready to be presented. It's a new, exciting way of looking at ministry!

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What is one of your favorite places in the world?

Asked what my favorite places in the world, I came up with one answer, but two seasonal aspects. During the growing season, my favorite place is my garden and yard. I relish my time turning compost, planting, tending worms and just watching things grow. In inclement weather, you can find me throwing mud in my pottery studio. Both of these places provide a place to create - to help something grow, or to build something useful. I enjoy traveling, and have been blessed to visit many foreign

countries. Those places are wonderful to visit and satisfy that natural curiosity we all have, but it's always such a joy to come home.



What would you do if you had a time machine?

A couple of years ago, I was able to mark something off of my bucket list - a trip to Israel. This trip was not a vacation, it was a tour - seeing ancient sites, listening to thousands of years of history - it was amazing... and exhausting! Going to many of the places that I read about in the Bible - Jericho, Bethlehem Nazareth, Jerusalem, Capernaum- it was quickly apparent that with the passage of time, these places did not look anything like they probably did 2000 years ago. We stopped at one place that deeply moved me. It was the place where Jesus had given the Sermon on the Mount. There was, of course, a church built on the site, however, there were grassy open sloping hills all around it. I could just

imagine people sitting and listening carefully to what our Lord was saying. If I had a time machine, I would go to Galilee so I could hear Jesus speak, so I could be in His presence. Wow!

What is the best thing about teaching?

Besides having the opportunity to spend some time with the cutest kids ever, I like teaching because I always learn something. The curriculum uses very clever activities to represent some pretty complex biblical principles. Breaking these principles down into the most basic and simple format, along with the finding answers for the simple yet oftentimes profound questions asked by the children has served to open my eyes more than once.

Besides Jesus, which person from the Bible would you like to meet?

I would like to meet Peter. He was a simple fisherman, he had flaws, yet Jesus saw him as the rock to build his church on. To find out just what it was like to walk with Jesus - that would be beyond fascinating!

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On Anxiety and Unity -

We live in an age of anxiety where every day we are bombarded with advice by the culture on how to best tame our anxieties. And clearly, there is not unity in our culture, especially right now as every tiny action becomes a political issue. It doesn't have to be this way.

As individual Christians, we are told in Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." If we would begin with this before seeking any other wisdom, we would do well. And those of us who are so broken (I include myself in this), as to need a listening ear, would do well to bring our concerns and cares to Jesus first. Now, sometimes it might seem like He isn't listening. Redoubling our prayers and opening our ears while we wait upon the Lord to bring the answer to our issues will ease our anxiety if we believe that Jesus has the answers. As Christians, we need to get our house in order before we can help others do the same. Once that happens, then we can shine Jesus' light wherever we go.



Some of us may be very anxious in this pandemic, about returning to live worship in our Sanctuary. That is valid. The scientists that are working the pandemic have far more knowledge now than when they began. Each of us needs to assess our risk in groups and live accordingly. Some of us may feel that the risk of secluding ourselves from worship is greater than our risk of getting the virus by attending a live worship service. Others may feel the opposite. There were no manuals handed to scientists or church leaders when this began that would tell us how to proceed. None of us is infallible. Most of us want the best for each and every person who is in our congregation and community.

This leads me to my other topic - unity. Because there is disunity in the culture, we must be unified in Christ as a beacon of hope to this community and to the world. One thing the pandemic has done particularly well is to almost instantaneously change our inward focus as a church to an outreach through the digital means we have used to provide worship services each week. Because we have had to re-tool the worship service into a taped version, and because these tapes have been put up on our channel on YouTube each week, we have also gained some followers from outside our community. This is a good thing! But in doing so, and as we return to worship in our Sanctuary and Family Life Center, it is particularly important that we do so in a way that is honoring to God. Hebrews 13:17 says "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you." The writer is speaking to congregants about their church leaders in this passage.

Recently, Christianity Today has published several articles on their website (christianitytoday.com), in which they have interviewed several church pastors and seminarians regarding what to do when you disagree with the church regarding reopening. One very helpful comment by a pastor indicated that the best course is to let that leader know your concerns in a respectful and kind dialogue and to not reach out to other church members to gather support for your agenda. In addition, it's not fair to openly criticize the leader's decision. If you are not comfortable attending, it's ok to stay at home and watch the video or live stream of the service. We need to support our pastor. It is a tough decision to make regarding whether to reopen or not.

A second opinion voiced in this article caught me quite by surprise, and could be considered very direct. I will quote it, though I understand it might actually be a bit too much truth for some: "We should heed our church leaders' decisions with humility and love. We trust that they have prayerfully considered all of the risks and benefits to their congregants and their neighborhoods. We lovingly and humbly join them in prayer about those decisions and then we trust them, even when we do not agree or understand. Our ability to submit to each other might be the true test of our commitment to Christian community and it also should be what is distinctive about the church. We should ask ourselves: am I only committed on my terms, and as long as my individual needs are met? If the answer is yes, I would argue that you are seeking a country club. The church is much larger than our own comfort." (Kathryn Freeman, seminarian, writer, and co-host of Melanated Faith Podcast) — emphasis, mine.

So, admittedly, we are all weary of the restrictions that we must maintain. We DO want what's best for each other, our church community and our community at large. Although I may not agree with some things, I will follow as I am being led because it will achieve what God wants to have happen in our community. He is still in control! We are His servants and we wish you all the best as we continue to move through this journey.

God bless you all,

Karen

Chancel Choir Members:

1) Please bring your folders and music from this spring, back if you have not already done so. When (if), we do choir later this fall, a new folder will be assigned you. I need to get all of last spring's music so I can check it in and file it. Thank you



2) As we return to worship at FPC, things will look a bit different. We will not be able to have a choir right away because of both the restrictions on numbers in the Sanctuary and the risk of exposure due to aerosol. Choirs, by their very nature must be able to hear each other and cannot maintain the 6 foot distancing required because of the sound and mic'ing issues that happen. The wonderful online choirs that were popping up on the internet all summer required each individual to separately tape to a metronome while singing solo, and then submit their tape so that it could be processed and collated during post production. This yielded a wonderful choral sound that seemed to be completely in sync. There are many hours involved in this type of tape vignette and the files are very large. We are trying to get our worship service up and running on live stream, so our technical folks will be focusing on that for the moment. I will be contacting the choir members (and former members who might be able and available), to work some small groups as well as duet and trio / quartet work for the fall season. IF the virus abates enough that we don't have to wear masks in service, then we will consider doing an Advent Choir. In the meantime, if you are a member or would like to be a member of the choir and have no problem singing without a mask on the platform, then I would be interested in speaking with you as I get various people together to bring music into our fall services.



LOCAL NEED CONTINUES!

THE NORTHERN NEVADA DREAM CENTER BLUE BARREL is located in the Narthex; canned and packaged food as well as paper goods may be dropped off on Sundays or during the week by calling the office (882-1032). Items are picked up by the Dream Center on a weekly basis to help those in our area who continue to need extra help. **Thank you for your ongoing support. It IS making a difference.** Brown paper bags are also still needed as they are used to pack the food for distribution.



We are so happy to welcome our newest staff member—Marie Morrison. She is our new part-time Bookkeeper and is currently being trained by Charlene to take over this function when Charlene finally takes her long-awaited retirement! If you come by the office, please be sure to say hello to Marie!

My name is Marie Morrison. I was born in the Philippines and I got my US citizenship in 2017. I moved here to Carson City in 2010. I am married to my wonderful husband Bruce Morrison and am a mother to a beautiful son and daughter. I also have two amazing grandkids. My interests include doing accounting for which I have a degree and experience of more than 15 years.

I have gone through a lot of trials in life: I lost my parents in a time I needed them the most; I lost my late husband and raised and provided for my children on my own. I had to go out of the country and worked abroad, so I could provide for my children and their future. It was hard. But in those bad times and troubles I knew one thing - God would never leave me nor forsake me. He draws me closer to Him and He has more in store for me. That is what I want to share to those people who do not know him yet.

My heart desire's is to follow Jesus and reach out to more souls to bring to His footstool. I am affiliated with Compassion International in Jesus' Name Foundation. My interest is to reach out to people who do not know Christ yet, and I believe in my heart that God is here and works in me and wherever I go, He leads me.





Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST Requested as of 08-19-2020
 Names removed for privacy



Active Duty Military in Our Prayers:
 Names removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



**TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
 OCTOBER — FRIDAY, SEPT. 11**
 Send your info / articles / submissions to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

<i>Congregational Giving—General Budget</i>			
2020 Projected			
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
August 17, 2020			
Yr to Date	\$340,174	\$315,927	- \$ 24,247
Current	Income	Expense	Difference
	\$315,927	\$276,295	+ \$ 39,632
		<u>TO DATE</u>	
Cameras	Income	Expense	Difference
	\$ 7,145	\$7,019	+ \$ 125.00

THANK YOU, ALL!!

ZEPHYR POINT WORK WEEKEND

Currently scheduled for September 12
Come for the weekend or just for Saturday. Lunch will be provided!!

Call the Speichers to sign up to participate.—please contact the office for their phone number

NOW CHANGED TO A SINGLE WORK DAY

Saturday: workday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm or whenever you are
exhausted!!



Rummage Sale

The Church Rummage Sale to benefit preservation of the Old Sanctuary was a huge success!! Thank you to all who donated so much. When one has five months to clean house, it is surprising how much one can find that is no longer needed!!

We are so thrilled to announce that we made \$6,072.75 (expenses of \$125 taken from this amount)!

Thank you to the many who helped to make it successful: Pat Angel, Debbie & Don Audet, Becky Donnelly, Butch Forbes, Dale & Sandy Hatchell, Jane & John Hancock, Lynn Hunter & her friend Lynn, Ken Jeter, Mike Klug, Denise & Dave Laursen, Barbara & John MacSween, Roger Merz, Vicki & Ken Pearson, Susan Secoy & John Reiser, Charlene Rodman & her sister Johnnell & brother-in-law Al, Susan & Bill Rose, Jenny Scanland, Lynn & Mike Solano-Donaldson, Connie & George Stanton, Dede Stevens & “kids,” John Tierney, Lynne Weaver, Margo Weaver, Carol Wilson, and Susie Zallar. A special thanks to Hilma and Mark Jones for the beautiful and delicious hors d’oeuvres they provided to keep us going!

Grace & Bob Speicher

The Old Sanctuary

I’m sure you have heard renewed interest in revitalizing our Old Sanctuary. In today’s history-destructive climate, it is especially important to preserve our historic structures.

Our First Presbyterian Church has held services continuously since 1861. The Old Sanctuary building is the oldest church in Nevada. It was designated an historical building in 1975 by the Carson City Historical Commission and the Board of Supervisors. It is registered # 285 on the American Presbyterian and Reform Historical Registry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Presbyterian church in Virginia City is # 308.

Just visualize the possibilities in a small chapel: small weddings, baptisms, memorial services, a quiet place to pray, prayer groups, meetings, Bible studies, training events, concerts, art exhibitions, performing arts, and a gathering place for all residents of Carson City. The possibilities are endless.

A steering commission has been formed to research what and how preservation can be accomplished. Members are Craig Clark, Jane & John Hancock, John MacSween, Ken Pearson, and Bob & Grace Speicher.

We believe any preservation can be accomplished in phases. In 1996, a Seismic Rehabilitation Cost Estimate Project, prepared by Melvyn Green & Associates, was estimated to be \$147,719; with passage of time and inflation, this amount will increase. The intent is to raise funds to complete each phase.

The first fund raiser was our successful Rummage Sale raising \$6,072.75. We are looking for those of **you** who would like to help seek funds for this effort. I have many ideas to accomplish this goal. Call Grace Speicher for more information.



DRUM ROLL PLEASE!!

Many of you will remember that this past spring, you filled baby bottles with your coins, cash and checks to help with our Life Choices Community Pregnancy Clinic ministry. Well here are the wonderful results: \$2,494.58. Your gifts are helping to counsel and serve mothers and fathers to choose life. They all hear that Jesus loves them and their unborn babies. Thank you for your part in this ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Bob Davis
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Worship Services

10:00 AM

Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

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

This Month's Sermons

September 6 King of the Jews	Mark 15: 1-20
September 13 Truly	Mark 15: 21-47
September 20 The Good News	Mark 16
September 27 To be announced	

See us and
"Like" us on



September 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		7:30 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information)	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's Restaurant	OFFICE CLOSED	 <i>News Carriers Day</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC open for seating 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE	<i>Happy Labor Day!</i>  OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information) 5:30 & 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant 7:00 pm Praise Team	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's Restaurant	OCTOBER TRUMPET DEADLINE  OFFICE CLOSED	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC open for seating 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE		7:30 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information) 5:30 pm Session Meeting	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's Restaurant	<i>Cheseburger Day</i>  OFFICE	
	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC open for seating 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE	7:00 pm Praise Team	7:30 am Women's Bible Study AUTUMN BEGINS 	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's Restaurant	OFFICE CLOSED	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC open for seating 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE		7:30 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information)	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's Restaurant		<i>All calendar items are subject to change without notice. Call the office with any questions.</i>

FH=Fellowship Hall

FLC=Family Life Center

For more information about Bible Study Groups, please contact the church office 882-1032