



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 50 No. 6

August 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop
"Connecting the Dots"

Last month I wrote to you of the significance of prayer. Equally important is that of spending time reading God's word every day. After more than 50 years of following Jesus I have never been more convicted that this is true. Something very powerful happens when we simply read God's word every day. God's Holy Spirit is given room in our heads and hearts to "connect the dots". "Connecting the dots" has become a contemporary expression that describes understanding something. But this expression is not new. I remember it as one of my favorite childhood learning exercises. Each month I would receive a reading magazine that had dot to dot puzzles. When all the dots were connected I could see a picture of something. It was fun to see if I could figure out what the picture was before all the dots were connected. But usually it was only after all the dots were connected that I could REALLY see what was on the page.

The same is true of Scripture; God's word. Until we let ourselves connect ALL the dots by reading it every day and getting to know the whole story we will not know the fullness of how our story fits with God's BIG PICTURE.

I think we in the Church and people beyond the walls of the Church can THINK we know what is in the Bible. But sadly most people who think this haven't read the Bible. And most people who have read the Bible think they either have a "handle" on it or can't understand it. Neither of these is true, I can tell you from experience. But by the guidance of God's Holy Spirit and the discipline of daily reading (and getting in a weekly study group) we CAN connect the dots in ways that will not only change our lives, but the lives of those with whom God gives us influence.

One way I have discovered that will make reading the Bible every day a compelling experience is to walk through the Bible where it happened. Not everyone is able to do this, but if God has made it possible for you to travel to Israel I encourage you to pray about doing so, especially if you DON'T think you need to! The next opportunity is May 18-30, 2014. I would love to lead you on this walk through God's word. Try praying this simple prayer, "Lord, do you want ME to go to Israel?" Then just listen and let God's Holy Spirit speak to your heart.

The key is not giving up and accepting that every day is a starting day. Too many people say, "I don't understand it" and quit. Too many people never give God a chance. And yet the Bible is God's gracious invitation to know him. Let me encourage you if you haven't been reading to start today. If you're stuck because you don't understand something call Dan or me or ask a friend in Christ. If you are reading and finding what I'm saying to be true, tell someone about it.

Let's connect the dots and let God do "exceedingly abundant; more than we could ever ask or think."

Yours in opening God's word every day,

Bruce

SUMMER UPDATE FROM DAN

I'm writing this article from summer camp at Zephyr Point. Summer camp is a fun experience! Zephyr Point is an amazing facility, and the staff members are welcoming, talented, and dedicated to their guests. Our Middle School week has been going very well. We have been playing all kinds of crazy games. I've been enjoying the food a little bit too much. Joe Dalton (the Program Director) has led us in some wildly fun songs (the guy deserves a Grammy nomination for "Live Camp Song Solo Performance" – somebody should work on that). We've climbed Robin's Flight about a dozen times each day. And we've been spending a lot of time talking about Jesus.

Camp is great, because we're removed from the normal pressures and activities of daily life. I don't know about you, but sometimes my life feels like a sailboat that is constantly accumulating barnacles. The barnacles consist of the tasks and goings-on of leading a life in 2013. I convince myself that I need or really enjoy some of my barnacles. Others are just there because I can't get rid of them. All of these barnacles create drag for my sailboat. I just can't cut through the water as cleanly. I know that I'm supposed to be living for Christ – following him with my whole heart – every single day of my life, but the barnacles just slow me down. Sometimes they get so bad that my rudder gets jammed and I start steering off course altogether.

We have one goal here at camp. We want to introduce kids to Jesus. If they already know Jesus, we want to help them grow deeper in their relationship with him. We remember this one goal during every activity, whether swimming, mastering the slack-lines, or even cleaning up after a meal. We have this laser focus on our single goal because the week won't last forever. We know that we have to make the most of this opportunity.

The crazy thing is this: how is camp any different from our normal lives? Jesus has called us to go out and make disciples every day of our lives. We can live each day for Jesus. Every activity can be done with Christ as our Lord. And every relationship has the potential to point to the one who has saved us. Camps and retreats and any kind of Sabbath are a great opportunity for us to refocus on our one goal in life: to glorify Christ and enjoy him forever.

How can *you* take time to refocus on *yours* savior this summer? Don't feed those barnacles! Don't give in! You have been bought for a price. God has claimed you and offers you the kind of satisfaction and life that can never be found this world. Becoming a Christian isn't a one-time thing. We are invited to give Jesus our whole lives. And God's Holy Spirit promises to sanctify us as we go, so that we are continually made more and more like our Good Shepherd.





THE KING'S KIDS – AUGUST



...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



Vacation Bible Experience: SON-Wood Forest:

44 kids sang, danced, played games, made crafts, and (most importantly) learned how Jesus is WILD about them!

Theme verse:

"Be alert. Stand firm in your faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Let everything you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-1



Each of our sites centered on a portion of our theme verse:

- Owls' Perch: Be alert! (Bible story: Elijah challenges the Israelites & the prophets of Baal);
- Beaver Bend: Stand firm in your faith! (Bible story: Three friends and the fiery furnace);
- Raccoon Ruckus: Be courageous! (Bible story: Four friends lower a friend to Jesus);
- Frog Hollow: Be strong! (Bible story: Esther)
- Rabbit Warren: Let everything you do be done in love! (Bible story: Jesus loves Zacchaeus)



Summer Sunday Experience: SON-HARVEST FARM: continues through August

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



Summer Day Camp at Zephyr Point (Last week: August 5-9!)

Our kids have had a BLAST so far at camp! And there's still one week left! At Zephyr Point, kids will experience fun and adventure at Zephyr Point (Presbyterian conference center) at Lake Tahoe. Activities include: swimming, canoeing, nature hikes, archery, group games, crafts, fun skits and singing and worship. Each day, campers will hear Biblical story lessons which share the message of God's love for every child. Register on-line (<http://zephyrpoint.org>).

Worship - In Darkness (or is it Protection?)

When I was a small child, I was afraid of the dark. I vaguely remember telling my parents to put a (night)light in my room. When I had children of my own, I remember putting the light in the room because I remembered being afraid of the dark as a child.

Sometimes our lives don't turn out as we think they should. Sometimes we experience a string of difficulties or disappointments that for some reason just don't let up. Perhaps when we pray about the difficulty, we feel that God is not hearing us and sometimes we let a darkness or pall settle over us as we wrestle with God's will and our desires.

Have we paused to consider that God always hears us? Maybe He is delaying His answer for a reason OR maybe we're praying for our own version of the outcome? I'm an expert at that one! In 1Thessalonians 5 - Paul exhorts us to (16) Rejoice always, (17) pray continually, (18) and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Notice that Paul indicates we should rejoice and give thanks, no matter the circumstances. Often when we turn our hearts toward these pursuits, the darkness lifts, even if the difficulty or disappointment is still with us. It's because we are showing our gratitude to a God who knows our needs, who cares for us, who died for us and who will not let us go - no matter what!

Now that doesn't mean we should stop praying for the situation that has us storming the gates of heaven. But as we pray, we need to be surrendered to God's will for whatever the outcome is that He has for us. Our hope lies not in outcomes, but in Christ Jesus. Sometimes, His answer is right there in the delay and sometimes the darkness is a fold of protection in His robe. The delay as well as the darkness may protect us from something He knows about, but that we are not fully aware of yet. So, for this reason we need not fear the darkness.

Trusting that God has the answer to our questions, keep crying out to Him, listen for His answer, but be yielded to His plan for you. Let Him use you to show another person the way through a difficulty. Look for Him in every circumstance--say, "how can I best serve you today, Lord?"

Have a good rest of the summer and if you are looking to serve in the music program this fall, check out our rehearsals in the August calendar elsewhere in the Trumpet.

In His grip,
Karen

COME ONE,COME ALL, to a picnic, August 3rd, sponsored by the Desert Schooners

WHERE: At the home of Jan and Dave Brees, 1951 Molly Drive

WHEN: Saturday, August 3rd, starting at 11:30 AM

WHAT TO BRING: Your choice of meat to barbeque, plus a side dish, salad, or dessert.

WE PROVIDE: Seating, shade and cold drinks.

YOU PROVIDE: GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND JOY.

GOD PROVIDES: HIS HOLY SPIRIT AMONG US!

For directions and additional information, call Jan or Dave Brees at 883-0224. P.S> Sandals and flip-flops are not recommended.

TAX SAVING OPPORTUNITY – IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 that was signed into law on January 2, 2013 renews the IRA Charitable provision. This permits you to make a tax-free contribution directly from your IRA to First Presbyterian Church until the end of 2013. The IRS requires mandatory withdrawal amounts each calendar year after you turn 70 ½. If you simply withdraw the funds, you pay taxes on the payout. However, if you direct your IRA distributions to be sent directly to First Presbyterian Church you will not pay income taxes on the withdrawal.

What are the rules?

- Donors must be 70 ½ years or older when making the qualified charitable distribution
- The distribution must go directly from an IRA to First Presbyterian Church
- Contributions cannot be made from a 401(k) or 403(b). Under certain circumstances, donors may choose to convert assets from a 401(k) or 403(b) into an IRA and then make a gift to the First Presbyterian Church
- **Gifts must be made by December 31, 2013**
- Direct contributions from an IRA to First Presbyterian Church cannot also be taken as a contribution deduction on form Schedule A

What are the benefits?

- Donors can transfer up to \$100,000/year directly from an IRA to FPC without paying taxes on the funds
- Amounts transferred directly from an IRA to FPC do not have to be reported as adjusted gross income (AGI) and may eliminate the higher Medicare Part B premiums of higher-income beneficiaries
- For those donors who do not itemize deductions, a gift from an IRA is excluded from reportable income, thus simplifying tax returns
- Direct transfers from an IRA may help satisfy the IRS Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

Please talk with your financial advisor or tax professional about taking advantage of this opportunity to give to First Presbyterian Church.

PARKING If you park on Musser street in front of the church office, PLEASE pull up so the front of your car is near the driveway. There is enough space for two cars to park if the first one moves forward. Thank you!

LOTTIE SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Special congratulations to MORGAN FINE on receiving this year's \$300 scholarship. Morgan will be attending UNR this fall with a major in Microbiology/biochemistry. The following prior recipients of the Lottie Scott Memorial Scholarship will receive a monetary love gift as they return to school: Chyanne Corley, Scott Johnson, Taylor Keema, Nathan Bartosz, Kelly Johnson, Daniel Trent and David Charles. Please keep these student in your prayers as they continue their education.

"Thank you, my church family for your prayers, cards and calls. I am truly blessed. Bette Denning:"



August Birthdays

Omitted for privacy on online version

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Omitted for privacy on online version

Requested as of July 24, 2013



August Anniversaries

Omitted for privacy on online version

A HUGE THANK YOU

I want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has sent me get well greetings. What a loving, caring church First Presbyterian Church has been to me during my health issues! A special thanks to Kaye Keeton for the beautiful worship flowers that lifted my spirits. Thank you to the many who dropped by my hospital room and home with greetings, cards, phone calls and flowers to help me smile again. Special thanks to Caren Kipler for being there for me for both of my ambulance rides and then numerous transports. I've never felt so loved and cared for in a difficult time. Thank you too to Pastor Bruce and Pastor Dan for their visits and words of encouragement. You are all the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you all!

Charlene

MISSION PROJECT UPDATE: "FREE THE GIRLS"

This past spring FPC partnered with the CC Rotary Club, FISH, St. Peter's Episcopal, the Women's Center of Carson Tahoe Health, and Wal-Mart's clothes returns to support "Free the Girls". This foundation, begun by a Christian woman, supports women survivors of the sex slavery trade in Africa by gathering used brassieres and camisoles. These items are then given to the African women to begin small businesses selling them to other women. These small businesses empower these women as they become self-supporting. Jointly, we collected over 1100 items for this cause! Thanks for your help!

You're encouraged to read the article written by the founder of "Free the Girls": <http://www.womenoffaith.com/2013/06/free-the-girls/>

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The church has medical equipment for use by our congregation. We have wheel chairs, potty chairs, raised toilet seats, crutches, walkers, etc. Please come to the office to borrow any of these items for your use.

WHY WOULD YOU GO TO ZEPHYR POINT?

CHURCH-WIDE POT LUCK

AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013

WHO: EVERYONE!

MISSION COMMITTEE IS PROVIDING DRINKS, HOT DOGS, BUNS, AND CONDIMENTS

POTLUCK PARTICIPANTS: PLEASE BRING SALADS, SIDE DISHES, DESSERTS, YOURSELVES

WHAT: FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER OVER LUNCH AND

LEARN MORE ABOUT

ZEPHYR POINT

PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

(right in our own back yard at LAKE TAHOE)

FEATURING DOUG BAKER

of ZPPCC TELLING HIS STORY OF "WHY ZP?"

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!---come to the potluck and

BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SIGN UP

to reserve your space to participate in the upcoming 2013
WORK/FELLOWSHIP weekend on September 27, 28 and 29

Questions?...contact Dave and Jan Brees at 883-0224 or ask a Mission Committee member

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Corner of North Division & West King Streets
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Carson City, NV 89703

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Carson City, NV 89701
Permit Number 173

Return Service Requested

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THE TRUMPET

Published by the
First Presbyterian Church
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9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

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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.

AUGUST SERMONS

August 4: "Trusting the Word" Acts 17:10-15

August 11: "The God Who is Knowable" Acts 17:16-34

August 18: "Knowing the Whole Story" Acts 18:24-28

August 25 "The Holy Spirit" Acts 19:1-7