



# The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

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August 2021

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have just passed the mid-year point. It seems like it a good time to assess how things are going toward our goals for 2021. At the beginning of the year, Session received and approved a "Top 5" mission and ministries priorities list for this year as we emerge from the pandemic. These "Top 5" things were identified as tangible expressions of what it means to "open the gospel to Carson City and beyond."



The five things were: 1) strengthened and renewed fellowship; 2) strengthened mission outreach; 3) continued adaptive ministry; 4) faithful stewardship of finances; and 5) prayer.

So, how are things going?

### **1. Strengthened and Renewed Fellowship**

Things are improving. We are not 100% yet, but are moving more in that direction. Opening up has afforded us the opportunities to get together – in person. Not that anyone was surprised, but in-person gatherings are much better than Zoom meetings. The video conferencing was a blessing when in-person was not possible or not reasonable, yet, there is no question that being able to worship together, enjoy coffee together, and have social events has been a good thing.

Our attendance has been steadily growing over these past few months. Additionally, we are seeing new faces regularly and are welcoming in new covenant partners almost quarterly. This is a great testimony to the health and vibrancy of this congregation. There are more fellowship events and opportunities being planned for the fall, leading into an active and joyful Advent/Christmas season.

### **2. Strengthened Mission Outreach**

Mission continues to be a priority and strength of this congregation's ministry. Our commitment of 12% of the budget to mission activity locally, nationally, and internationally has borne tremendous fruit for the glory of God.

But mission involves more than money. We are building ongoing relationships of support with our missionaries – hearing from them, praying for them specifically, and developing resources for them to be able to use with other congregations and supporters.

Further, we continue to be in prayer about how we can be reaching out into all the new communities of people coming to this area. We want to be praying and working now to plant the seeds so that we can leave a legacy of faithfulness throughout this region – doing the groundwork for people and generations we are likely to not know.

### **3. Continued Adaptive Ministry**

Some of the things we are able to do now feel very similar to pre-pandemic church "normal." However, we continue to focus efforts on adapting to more intimate, small number ministries. There are two primary

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## From the Pastor's Desk

reasons: first, it is tough to predict how the continued uncertainty posed by the Delta variant will impact our ability to gather in the coming months; and, second, there are still varying degrees of comfort being in close proximity to large numbers of people. The programs we are producing with Aunt Betty's Studio are illustrations of adaptive ministry. The technologies we are learning have afforded us the ability to offer new venues for the expression of God's gifts. The livestream of worship each week, the mid-week "Mary and Sherri" show, special music pieces, podcasts of people telling personal stories and the stories behind the music we sing – none of these things existed pre-pandemic.

There are more new and different kinds of things being produced each month, and so we are continuing to see the blooming of possibilities for many people to get involved.

### 4. Faithful Stewardship of Finances

The congregation has been extremely faithful in their giving through all the pandemic and up until now. There was – and is – a concern for the session to respond to changes in the giving so that we neither fall behind where God is leading nor outspend trying to get ahead of God. Session has been faithful to that charge. Mid-year, the session adjusted the budget to more accurately reflect current giving; but it is worth noting that our actual income and actual expenses are fairly well balanced.

As we emerge from isolation, our expenses will continue to increase based upon the greater use of facilities and resources. Thus, we ask you to continue to keep up your faithfulness in giving!

### 5. Prayer

Though this is last on the list, it is first in our priorities. Thankfully, we know that the people of this congregation pray. There are two areas of growth that we are looking to develop: corporate prayer and intercessory prayer. You may know that there is a "concert of prayer" each week; I send out a resource on Tuesday so that we all may be praying for the same things on the same day each Wednesday. This is a simple way we can be praying together as a congregation. If you are not already receiving the resource on Tuesdays and would like to, please send me a note and I will add you to the list. Additionally, watch for announcements in the near future for a time when we will be inviting all those who are interested in being part of prayer teams to a gathering to intercede for others on Sunday mornings after service and then also throughout the week.

To sum up: things are going well. We are not perfect and there is room to grow, but the overall process of emerging from an unprecedented shut down and isolation has been very positive. In short, we know that God is good; all the time. All the time, God is good. We have seen it, we know it, and we are now coming back into a season where we can share it.

Your brother in Christ,

**Bob Davis**



#### Congregational Giving—General Budget

2021 Projected			
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
<i>July 11, 2021</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$287,017	\$208,722	- \$ 78,295
<u>Current</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$208,722	\$226,153	- \$ 17,431
<u>TO DATE</u>			
<u>ECO Dues</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	
	\$ 2,680	\$ 5,200	



# Family Ministries



This summer, we are celebrating! We are celebrating God's faithfulness as we open the gospel to Carson City and beyond. We are celebrating that we are able to gather together once again in fellowship, to enjoy each other's company in fun, family friendly activities. We are celebrating you. What a blessing to visit, laugh, hug and delight in spending time together! Here a few images of the Poker Run, Ice Cream Social, and Movie Trivia Night.



The biking crew at one of the stops.

On your mark, get set, go...

Jenny Scanland gets an Ace!



In line for tasty treats



The judges had a rough job!



A good time was had by all.



Fun movie and goodies? Yes, please!

If you haven't joined us yet for one of our fun activities, keep an eye on the calendar for more events. We are planning a variety of activities, and something is sure to appeal to you!



As you wish.



Audience participation encouraged!



Family Ministries Events are the perfect opportunity to invite friends to. We have met several people already, and look forward to those who will join us in the future.

PSALM 100 SAYS,

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH.

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS; COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING.”

We are blessed to have so many very talented people in our congregation who are willing to step into the gap after Karen's retirement. Over the next editions of the Trumpet we will meet some the great folks who are giving of their time and talent to keep the music a big part of our worship of God. Please get to know these folks in person! Let them know you appreciate their offerings.



### HALLIE KIRK

Joel and I met in December 2006; our dates soon involved looking for a home church for me, since I lived here in Carson City and I had been commuting to Reno where I played guitar in the worship band at Grace Church Reno, where my cousin led worship some Sundays. Anyway, since I had grown up in the Presbyterian Church (Sunnyvale, CA), I wanted to check out First Presbyterian here in CC. That Sunday in January, 2007 was one of our earliest dates - we loved pastor Bruce's message, and we were both drawn to his terrific vocabulary! We started coming to FPCCC on Sundays and I never needed to further my 'church shopping' after that. Joel and I became members here on Easter Sunday in April 2007 and we got married on April 21, 2007 - our wedding was an outdoor affair in my aunt Flora's backyard in northwest Reno. In fact, the pastor who officiated at our wedding was Rev. John F. Payne, who had been my youth pastor at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church back in the late '70s.

I have known Jesus as my Lord since Sunday School. During the summer of 1975, I went to camp with my cousin at Sierra Pines Baptist Camp at Lake Tahoe. That week I asked Jesus into my heart. I've been involved with church music ever since. I enjoy bringing music to people and using this gift God gave me. It's a privilege - and it's fun!

I started figuring out the piano when I was 3. My parents had taken us to see "The Sound of Music" at the drive-in. The next morning my parents awoke to the sound of a 3-year-old (me) plunking out the notes to "My Favorite Things" on our baby grand piano downstairs. I guess "the rest is history." I've played piano and guitar by ear since an early age - I figured out the guitar by borrowing my brother's when I was in 6th grade.

Musical influences include James Taylor; Carole King; The Beatles; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and my primary style/genre is Folksy Country/Adult Contemporary. Music has allowed me many opportunities including recording and performing with members of the Doobie Brothers, the Santa Cruz area's Stormin' Norman & the Cyclones, and with the Mississippi band James Pirkle Blues Band. Favorite memories as a performer include being the opening act for Tammy Wynette (Country Fest '91), The Drifters, The Coasters, and Percy Sledge (Main Street Association's Sundown Serenade, 2000-2002), and Paul Thorn (Tallahatchie River Fest, 2001).



### WIL EULER

Wil Euler plays the harmonica as a member of the FPC Praise Team. His passion and interest in music, and the harmonica in particular, goes back to his childhood. Wil was born and raised on a dairy farm in Wisconsin and remembers going to church every Sunday with his family. His dad and cousin both played the harmonica there. Faith was an important part of his life growing up.

Like many young people, Wil sought out his own independence. He joined the Army. During this time or shortly after, he discovered blues music and decided he wanted to become a blues player. Somehow though, his harmonica playing just didn't click as he wanted it to. After his Army service, Wil moved to Nevada. In the meantime his parents retired to Arkansas and he went to visit them. He expressed frustration to his dad about his struggles with the harmonica. His dad said to him, 'Do you ever listen to what you are playing?'

That statement really clicked with Wil and so did his ability to play the harmonica. Wil doesn't read music and yet plays just about any song. He said, 'he just needs the key.'

He has been attending FPC for more than 30 years, playing harmonica with the Praise Team for most of that time. Wil is married to his lovely wife, Candi, who delights us with wonderful coffee flavors at Sunday fellowship. He still likes the blues but loves the hymns sung at FPC, the congregation and the vibrant music ministry. He is an example of Proverbs 22:6 that says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.'

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to contribute your time, and talent to God's ministry here at First Presbyterian Church?  
Consider these opportunities!



## HELP! HELP! HELP!

Every time the Grace Notes play there seem to be rave reviews. Lately, however, Grace Notes has had difficulties getting enough ringers to play interesting music. At the moment we have five ringers who are willing to be there to rehearse. With that number we will play occasionally. Ringing bells is not difficult but does require a commitment to be at rehearsal every week at 9:00 am on Wednesday. If you also read music that is a plus—if not we will teach you! If this is something that interests you, please call Paul Weaver at 883-1775. We really need 10 or more ringers to be effective. Our desire is to continue to play and bring glory to God.

## ZEPHYR POINT FALL WORK DAY

Saturday, September 11

Plans area being made for the Fall Work Day at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center. Join us to spend an enjoyable day at Lake Tahoe. Various maintenance projects are always in need of volunteer help – carpentry, gardening, staining, demolition & more. Coffee and goodies available Saturday morning at 7:30 am; work will begin about 8:00 am.

Work all day or until you are tired! Lunch will be provided.  
Sign-ups begin Sunday, August 1 after church in the Narthex.

See Grace or Bob Speicher for more information.



## THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP!

It has been such a blessing to be able to linger after worship services to enjoy some coffee, some snacks, and each other! If you would like help out with set up, providing food or cleaning up afterward, there is a sign-up sheet next to the coffee pot.

*"A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed" – Proverbs 11:25*

## VOLUNTEER!

FPC has MANY opportunities for you to volunteer and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** YOU may have just the skill that is being sought — if you're not experienced but have an interest, we can train you! Here are a FEW of the opportunities!

**Aunt Betty's Studio/Podcasts:** readers, story tellers, video editors, creative thinkers, skit participants, people to help with set up, and more. Behind the scenes or in front of the cameras!

Contact Sherri Gurney

**Audio/Visual Team:** preparation and running PowerPoint presentations; helping with equipment set up for rehearsals, events and Sunday mornings; livestream broadcast tasks on Sunday morning; etc.

Contact Alan Jones

**Sunday Morning Ushers and Greeters:** welcome everyone to church with a smile, distribute bulletins, assist with seating, offering collection, etc.

Contact Ken Pearson

**Coffee Fellowship:** food prep, set up/clean up, serving, etc.

Sign up in FLC or Contact Linda Ritter

Your ideas for other ways to serve are also welcome! Just contact the office.

## ON OUR PRAYER LIST THIS MONTH

**Please pray for these families:** Names removed for privacy prayers for first responders and those in law enforcement for their safety, to feel encouraged and know they are appreciated † Ongoing prayers for the Journey of Hope –The Ability Experience riders crossing the United States



Names removed for privacy

PLEASE PRAY FOR ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY



Names removed for privacy



Names removed for Privacy

After many years of faithful service to the children and families of FPC, Deana Ercanbrack has retired. She has blessed so many children and families with her love, kindness, and teachings about Jesus, and she will be missed in this capacity. She has sown many seeds of faith! We'll look forward to how God uses her talents in other ways!

THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART

Also leaving the FPC staff is Abby Davis, our Electronic Communications Coordinator. Abby heads back to Hawai'i to complete school and then off to see what God has in store for her.

We wish both of these beautiful ladies many blessings and thank them for all they have done.



First Presbyterian Church of Carson City uses approximately 12% of the church's income in support of a variety of missions both locally and globally.

You are invited to be part of the Mission Committee as they make decisions and take actions to spread God's love through financial assistance and participation in activities such as GraceWorks.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Come participate in this exciting aspect of God's work and be part of the impact being made!

### MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP – TIM & CAROL IMBROCK

As we learned in the Mission Message on July 25th, for over 75 years, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) has used aviation to share the love of Jesus Christ with isolated people who have not yet heard the Gospel.

#### A FEW MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP FACTS

- ◇ MAF flies to more destinations than the six largest airlines in the world—combined. Granted... these include dirt and grass airstrips in remote jungles and mountains.
- ◇ Every 19 minutes, in some of the most remote places on earth, an MAF aircraft either takes off or lands.
- ◇ Betty Greene, a WWII pilot, flew MAF's inaugural flight in 1946—taking two WyCliffe Bible translators to a remote jungle location in Mexico.
- ◇ An MAF airplane is often the only safe and reliable means of transportation for ministry activities, reducing an all-day trek by foot to a mere 12-minute flight.

*See the back of the August calendar for more MAF facts!*

### ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST A DESERVING YOUNG PERSON WITH THEIR COLLEGE DREAMS

Todd Butterworth acquainted us with Fernanda during his sermon on July 18



#### HELPING FERNANDA IN ECUADOR

When she was just six years old, Fernanda's pregnant mother escaped an abusive marriage to rescue Fernanda and her two younger brothers from their desperate situation. The family moved from the rural agricultural community of Mollepamba in Ecuador to the city of Loja to begin a new life. Now 11 years later, Fernanda's single mom still struggles to provide for her kids, but the family is safe and happy, and has become very involved in the Christian community in Loja.

Fernanda has grown into a strong young woman who is an outstanding student and deeply committed to her faith. Her dream is to attend medical

school because it will capitalize on her aptitude for science and her desire to serve the community, while enabling her to help her family.

With one year remaining in high school, she is now graduating from a year-long search and rescue/first aid program and will soon begin a 1200-hour Emergency Medical Technician training program. She is doing all of this while still enrolled in high school because the experience will better position her for success in pursuing a medical career.

Fernanda will be the first person in any generation of her family to attend college and of course her mother cannot afford the costs. Preliminary estimates are that tuition will cost \$6,000 per year for her undergraduate studies; it is currently unclear what scholarships and grants might be available.

If you are interested in helping Fernanda reach her dreams, she would be excited to provide you with updates on her progress along the way.

Todd and Kellie Butterworth are facilitating this process in Ecuador and will ensure that all funds are accounted for and appropriately expended.

They can be reached at [contact the church office 775-882-1032]. Donations can be directed to the church office.



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**Worship Services**

10:00 AM

**Webpage**

[www.fpccarsoncity.org](http://www.fpccarsoncity.org)

View service recordings on YouTube -  
 search for  
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Submit Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles to  
[margo@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto:margo@fpccarsoncity.org). Articles may be edited for space.  
 See calendar for the upcoming due date. Trumpet mailings  
 prepared by a team led by George & Connie Stanton.

**This Month's Sermons**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| August 1  | "Can't We All Get Along?"<br>Genesis 25: 19-26 |
| August 8  | "What Words Are Worth"<br>Genesis 25: 27-34    |
| August 15 | "The Sins of the Father"<br>Genesis 26: 1-34   |
| August 22 | "Who Gets What"<br>Genesis 27: 1-45            |
| August 29 | "Why Do Bad Things Happen<br>to Good People?"  |

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