



# The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 08

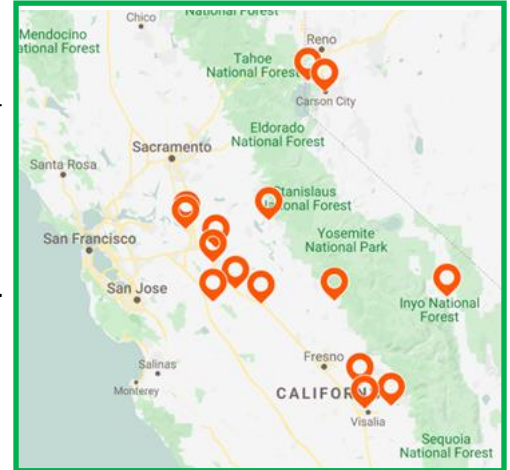
October 2020

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Presbytery of Northern California and Nevada met via Zoom in mid-September. The headline is that the Presbytery is committing to planting congregations in this area. The time for preparing to plant is now.

First Presbyterian Church, Carson City, is one of fifteen congregations in this presbytery. Here's a map of where those congregations are located. The two Nevada congregations are The Village Church in Incline and us. I am praying that this changes; specifically, that in the next ten years we would see several more pins surrounding our area. Given the influx of new residents and the growth of communities – have you tried to get to and from Costco recently? – the need and opportunities are abundant.



There is no magic to planting congregations. It starts with prayer. Plain and simple: we need to discern the where, how, and who. The only way to discern is to spend time seeking God's guidance and direction. The rest is logistics.

That said, logistics are important. Among the things that will be helpful for you to keep in prayer: there is a group in Phoenix that is training and giving experience to church planters for the specific purpose of making them available in contexts like ours. We can pray that God would be raising up the right people for the congregations (please note: both are phrased in the plural) that will be planted in this region. Second, there is a church planters group facilitating the development and organization of the congregations supporting new church plants and planters. Ultimately, that would be our role. We would not have to reinvent the wheel; we can learn from the lessons others have experienced. Finally, there are funds available at the Presbytery and Synod levels to help support the effort.

To me, this is such an exciting part of being in ECO; I never had the chance to talk about things like this in our former denomination. It is awesome to be looking forward and praying about God's hand moving in the future.

## **Reformation Sunday**

The last Sunday in October is Reformation Sunday. It is the Sunday closest to October 31, the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Door. In years past I have tried to highlight a person or aspect of the Reformation that would be worth knowing. This year, I want to focus our attention on John Knox. Today, Knox is best remembered for being the author of the Scots Confession.

Knox was born in the early 1500's. He was ordained as a Catholic priest before the waves of Luther's reforming efforts had come to Scotland. When news of the fledgling Reformation did come, it came by way of George Wishart.

Knox became Wishart's bodyguard. Wishart was preaching Reformation theology in Catholic England. Knox used a two-handed sword to defend Wishart as he preached. It was a dangerous time for those looking to reform the Catholic church and, indeed, Wishart was arrested. Knox followed and was prepared to try to break him loose when Wishart said, "One is sufficient for one sacrifice." Wishart was burned and Knox went underground.

Continues next page

These were times when England and France were at war. In 1547, Knox was captured by the French. Knox told a story about himself, that while he was a galley-slave, chained to a rowing bench, the prisoners were threatened with torture if they did not give proper signs of reverence during the Mass. He was required to show devotion to a picture of the Virgin Mary, told to give the picture a kiss of adoration. He refused. When the picture was shoved in his face, he grabbed it and threw it overboard saying, "Let our lady now save herself; for she is light enough; let her learn to swim." This did not endear him to the Catholics.

Eventually, Knox was released. He continued to preach and found some favor with the King of England throughout the early 1550's. In 1554 he was in Geneva with John Calvin. His travels shaped his understanding of church-state relations and a conviction about how the Church should be governed.

By 1561 Knox had returned to Scotland and found himself summoned repeatedly before Queen Mary ("Mary, Queen of Scots"). There were intense confrontations between the two. Knox was neither polite nor restrained in his criticism. He preached against her proposed marriage to the son of the King of Spain. She broke down and cried. After she finished, Knox told her he had never much liked weeping. He explained to her that she had "no just caused to be offended" because he was speaking the truth.

His distrust of power and the temptation power poses to those required to exercise it led him to begin developing the system of government later known as "Presbyterian." While the polity (or structural) pieces are interesting to historians, for us Knox is most interesting for his advocacy of Reformed theology.

The hallmark of the Reformation was summed up in five "sola's" – five "only's." These were statements of protest against "the way we have always done things" in the Roman Catholic tradition. The five are: Faith alone, Grace alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone. Later developed the theme, "The church reformed, always to be reformed, according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit."

So, there you go. A look forward and a look back. Have a great October!

Your brother in Christ,

**Bob Davis**

**BUDGET PLANNING**

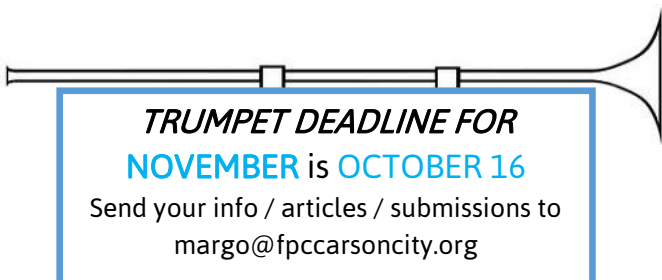
'Tis that time of year again for our leaders to review our budget needs for 2021. Please begin by looking at your 2020 budgets. Plan for the future but also trim your budgets where you can. Talk to those on your committees: what ideas do they have for the new year – events, equipment supplies, projects – consider your whole committee and what God is leading you, your committee members and our volunteers to in the new year.

Time line:

- ⇒ Budget planning forms and information will be emailed out the first of October.
- ⇒ Filled out forms are due back to Charlene and Marie in the office no later than Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (or sooner).
- ⇒ The session budget meeting will be Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm

Thank you in advance for your input in a timely manner.

**Administration Committee**



**TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR  
NOVEMBER is OCTOBER 16**  
Send your info / articles / submissions to  
margo@fpccarsoncity.org

**Congregational Giving—General Budget**

	2020 Projected		
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
<i>September 15, 2020</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$381,407	\$352,079	- \$ 29,328
<b>Current</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Difference</b>
	\$352,079	\$326,375	+ \$ 25,704
<b>TO DATE</b>			
Cameras	Income	Expense	Difference
	\$ 6,945	\$ 8,887	- \$ 1,942

**THANK YOU, ALL!!**

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

## *Teacher Spotlight: Deana Ercanbrack*

What ancient place would you like to go?

Besides visiting the Holy Lands and walking where Jesus walked, I would love to go way, way back in time to God's perfect Garden of Eden, before the fall of man. What a joy to experience the taste, sights, sounds and smells of this beautiful place; complete peace on earth! I can only imagine!

You are hosting a dinner party and must invite three famous people. Who do you choose and why?

First, I would most likely have an appetizer/dessert party rather than a sit down dinner. It would be very casual so everyone could mingle, talk and eat. I would invite three women that I consider very strong and persevering, and whose lives have impacted the teaching world in exceptional ways. How wonderful to have them together in the same place and to be able to have a conversation with each of them! I would hopefully have the courage to ask each person, "what or who helped you become so remarkable?" I'm not sure how much english my first guest would be able to speak, being that she is Italian physician and educator, Dr Maria Montessori. Not only was she a brilliant woman doctor working in a man's world, she had the insight and sensitivity to observe and understand how young children learn best by exploring their environment. Next, I would love to invite Anne Sullivan. Being able to show love and compassion, teaching a seriously disabled Helen Keller while struggling with her own disability, is amazing to me. Last, but not least on my guest list is Beverly Cleary. She is one of my favorite authors of children's books from my early youth. She once said, "Children should learn that reading is pleasure, not just something that teachers make you do in school"...and what a pleasure her books were for me! I thank God that he has allowed me the privilege of having taught young children and to have worked with challenged children and feel empathy toward children who are struggling to read, I can honestly say these remarkable women have impacted my life as well.



What does prayer mean to you?

I'm so thankful for the gift of prayer! I could not make it through one day with out prayer. It means so many things to me. So where do I start? To me prayer is a privilege and an honor. Prayer is my connection to my God. Beautiful prayer language, the Word of God spoken in gratitude, singing new songs of praise, crying tears of sadness or of overwhelming joy, sighs too deep to even begin to express their meaning, Jesus interceding on my behalf and those blessed quiet times of being completely still, listening for His voice. Praise God, He knows my name.

## Is Singing for “Every One”?

The question has been posed: Is singing just for the folks who are music nerds or professionally trained? It might actually be a little ironic that I chose this topic for this month’s article, as we are currently being asked to sing quietly behind our masks in service. But we need to consider in this season, what is the role of singing in our spiritual life? While there are studies out there that caution against loud singing in groups in enclosed areas during the pandemic, did you know that God commands us to sing more than 20 times throughout Scripture?

While we are not able to sing out on Sunday morning like we might want to, we can surely sing in our devotional time each day in our homes and with our families. In fact, it is so helpful to sing even in the time of suffering. It is one way to express your lamentation and praise to God. We need to sing because we need that daily reminder that God is present even in the midst of difficulties. In singing to God, we will find a clearer picture of God’s truth and greater faith in His power. Pastor John Piper has said that we must sing even in suffering in order to be comforted by God’s Holy Spirit. And one day, we will all sing the same song in heaven as we bow down before the Throne of God.

One of the precepts of the Sing!Global 2020 conference that I just had the privilege to attend online is to teach families to sing the hymns. As Christians, we know the value of praying and studying Scripture. We should also add singing to that exercise. God sings over us (Zephaniah 3:17), so why would we not sing back to God, even in private? “Songs rich in Biblical truth remind us of God’s unfailing love for us and His inexhaustible joy available to us.” - Jim Thomas, Pastor of The Village Chapel in Nashville, TN.

In fact, Pastor Thomas has offered these tips to make singing in your home and devotional time a habit:

- 1) Commit several hymns - both ancient and modern to memory. This can be done by repetition, with a hymnal in your hand or even by watching someone singing the hymn on YouTube or other social media.
- 2) Continue to sing the songs from your church’s Sunday worship service throughout the week.
- 3) Stream or download songs from other churches. Some churches make their song list for a given Sunday available on Spotify. We do not currently, but you can watch our service on YouTube.

Also, meditating, if not outright singing of the Psalms is very helpful in this time of pandemic, when folks are feeling isolated, discouraged, lonely, anxious, depressed because of loss of fellowship and loved ones or unemployment in addition to the usual life burdens we shoulder. I remember another column that focused in on the Psalms in which I expressed that all 150 Psalms are meant for instruction. They stir our emotions and are inspirational in guiding us on how to live. They can give expression to our joys and sufferings. As Athanasius, the 4th C. church leader said, “Most of scripture speaks to us; the Psalms speak for us.” In fact, medical research has shown that singing can act like a natural antidepressant because it releases positive neurochemicals in our bodies. Things like endorphins, dopamine and serotonin. God created us to be soothed by singing.

So yes, singing is for every man, woman and child. It helps us express our love and faith back to God. It teaches our children the precepts of the faith. It soothes our souls. You say “but I can’t carry a tune in a bucket” — well, God wants to hear your voice in praise and adoration, whether you think you have a singing voice or not. It might be in your devotional, it might be in your shower, it might be as you are gardening, or even in worship at our church. Psalm 100 says “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Come into His presence with singing!” God filters are on even when you don’t think you are making a quality melody to Him. He just wants to hear you, His child, sing to Him.

I will sing the wondrous story!

*Karen*



When parking for Sunday worship and other Church activities please do not park in the Methodist Church parking lot across from our main entrance on Division Street. Please also observe the new placements of handicapped parking only signs. Additional parking is available in our lot on the northeast corner of Musser and Nevada Streets. If you have questions, please ask an usher.





Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"This is my prayer..." Paul wrote to the Philippians 1. But for what did Paul pray?

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, **having produced the harvest of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."

He prayed that "your love may overflow more and more." Love overflowing has an impact; it yields fruit that manifests the glory and praise of God. In the strangest year of my life (and any of our lives, I would guess), this congregation has overflowed with generous giving and service.

This year, our stewardship theme is to "Produce the Harvest of Righteousness." Giving is a part of our covenant life together. Giving is an act of worship. Giving is our obedient response to God's command to give. Giving is a way of expressing our thanksgiving for all God has given us. Giving is part of our testimony to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

Your pledge helps the session prayerfully discern what are the mission and ministry priorities for the next year. We are looking to reach out into our neighborhood, community, nation, and world with the message of the gospel and the love of God. It is my prayer that through our giving we overflow more and more to produce the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Pledge cards and information have been mailed out. If you did not receive a mailing, please call the office at 882.1032 X215. There will also be pledge cards available in the Narthex and in the Family Life Center for you to pick up and drop in the offering plate, mail back to the office, or drop off at the office. Dedication Sunday will be November 22, 2020. Thank you!

Your brother in Christ,


**Bob Davis**

I want to give a huge shout-out to my unsung heroes—the members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. These men have worked tirelessly to improve the Sunday School rooms and help create "Aunt Betty's Studio" upstairs. They have torn down, repurposed, upgraded, moved, painted and SO much more. During a time when we have been unable to meet, they have made the most of this opportunity to upgrade our facilities to meet the needs of a new ministry.

**Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!**

**Sherri Chenin**, Family Ministry Coordinator



 First Presbyterian Church staff and officers will NEVER contact you via text or email seeking money. We will NEVER ask you to personally front money for ministry, mission, or compassionate purposes. We have the Deacons' fund that has been specifically designated to address these kinds of events. So, if you receive something purporting to be from us — particularly on a weekend or during a time when the office is not open — please contact the person directly by the phone number in the church directory to confirm what is going on. We want to discourage those who would seek to take advantage of the trust and fellowship we have in Jesus Christ.



We are back to working on a new photo church directory! We will be using an online directory format which eventually can be updated on an ongoing basis, accessed online, or printed—all by you!

To get us started, Bob Stansbury will take photos during the **half hour before and half hour after** worship on Sundays; Cecelia Stansbury will also go over a sheet of the information currently on file for you so it can be updated and expanded with information we may be missing.

If you are unable to come to church to have your photo taken, a time for someone to come to you to take a picture and do the information update is also an option and can be arranged with Margo. Call her at the office at 882-1032 x212 Monday—Thursday 9-4. You may also submit your own photo to Margo to be considered for inclusion in the directory at [margo@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto:margo@fpccarsoncity.org). A picture that can be scanned may also work.

Ultimately, you will be able to do your own information updates and view the directory on your electronic devices. Hard copies with pictures will be available to be purchased through a local printing company—details will follow later—and "no-picture" directories will still be available in the church office.



Names and dates removed for privacy

### ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Names removed for privacy

Requested as of 9-17-2020



Names and dates removed for privacy



**Active Duty Military in Our Prayers:**  
Names removed for privacy



The Northern California & Northern Nevada Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is here for you. Our doors are closed but our staff is continuing to serve our community. We offer a variety of no cost virtual education presentations, local support groups, early stage engagement activities, respite funding, care consultation, information & referral & our 24/7 helpline. For further information visit [alz.org/nornev](http://alz.org/nornev) or call 1-800-272-3900.

First Presbyterian Church Carson City has a part-time opening for an Electronic Communications Coordinator! This person will be responsible for maintaining the church's electronic/ online presence as well as other possible communications responsibilities. Salary and hours negotiable. Contact Grace Speicher for details via the office 882-1032



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR - October 23 at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center

Back by popular demand!

We are having another board painting party with Rustically Divine!

Easy projects with fun fellowship

(if you can dab paint onto a board, you can do one of these projects!).

Registration is limited due to space, is first-come first-served, and closes on October 15. Go online to [www.rusticallydivine.com](http://www.rusticallydivine.com) to register ("Candi's Party"), pay, and pick your project and paint colors which will be individually packaged and brought to the event for each participant. We get a \$5 discount off the prices shown on the website. LOTS of great designs to choose from. FPC facility-use protocols will be followed: masks must be worn, no shared food, etc. Contact Candi Euler with any questions via the office 882-1032.



# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallards		11:00 AM Trio rehearsal
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC seating  10:00 am COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE  <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	7:00 pm Praise Team	7:30 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information)  Time TBD - Trio rehearsal	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant  9:00 am Grace Notes	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallards	OFFICE CLOSED	 National Motorcycle Ride Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC seating 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE  11:30 am Deacons Meeting	 Old Farmers Day	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  9:00 am Grace Notes  Time TBD - Choir sectional	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallards	NOVEMBER Trumpet Deadline   OFFICE CLOSED	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC seating  10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE	 7:00 pm Praise Team	7:00 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information)  5:30 pm Session Meeting	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant  9:00 am Grace Notes  Time TBD - Choir sectional	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallards	6:00 pm Board Painting Party in FLC  OFFICE CLOSED	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 am Sanctuary & FLC seating  10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE	Family Ministries Rainbow Paper Folding Day	7:30 am Women's Bible Study (contact office for information)	8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's Restaurant  9:00 am Grace Notes  Time TBD - Choir sectional	7:30 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallards	 Nevada Day Observed OFFICE CLOSED	 Happy Halloween ALSO Set your clocks BACK an hour tonight - DST ends!! 

FH=Fellowship Hall FLC=Family Life Center

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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 Carson City, NV 89703

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**THE TRUMPET**

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**First Presbyterian Church**  
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The Rev. Bob Davis  
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

**Worship Services**

10:00 AM

**Webpage**

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

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to [margo@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto: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**

October 4	"Filled"	Philippians 1: 1-11
October 11	"Advancing"	Philippians 1: 12-16
October 18	"Have the Same Mind"	Philippians 2: 1-11
October 25	"Work Out"	Philippians 2: 12-29



Set your clocks BACK  
 the night of October 31st.  
 Daylight Saving Time ends and  
 Standard Time begins November 1.

See us and  
 "Like" us on

