



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 58 No. 10

December 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we wrap up 2021, I thought it might be helpful to review some of the things we discerned God calling us to prioritize this year. This list was my recommendation to session of where and how we needed to focus our energy, effort, and resources to best be faithful to God's call to "open the gospel to Carson City and beyond" in the months leading out of this pandemic. As we end this year, we are still getting out of the pandemic; **yet the reality is that we have seen God's faithfulness throughout and have reason to rejoice.**

Let me repeat that: **the reality is that we have seen God's faithfulness throughout and have reason to rejoice.** As challenging and trying as has been this extended COVID season, we have seen God move mightily.

Here were the top five priorities: 1) fellowship; 2) mission; 3) ministry; 4) prayer; and 5) finances. I want to walk through how we have discerned God's leading, experienced God's faithfulness, and are thankful for how God has blessed us. To be sure: we are not a perfect congregation; however, we serve a perfect God who is awesome.

Fellowship

We are not designed to be socially distant or alone. These last months have been difficult and devastating to many. Not being able to worship together, study together, visit together, and pray together has been the top lament voiced by the people of this congregation.

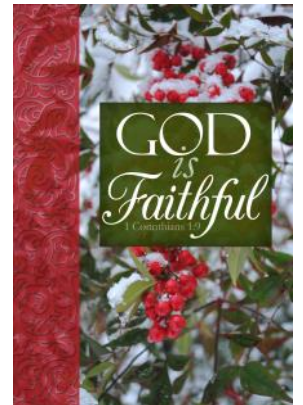
Through 2021 we have had opportunities to resume gathering in-person and via live-stream. We have seen increases in our sanctuary attendance on Sundays while maintaining stable numbers with the live stream. We have been able to re-start the Coffee Hour following service. Family ministries has had monthly events including movie nights, craft days, bicycle poker outings. Christian education has resumed in person and hybrid (in-person and live-streamed) classes. There are men's and women's study groups meeting. Things are not back to what was "normal"; however, God has granted us multiple opportunities to visit and strengthen relationships with one another.

We are learning how to be in fellowship with one another in a different way. God has opened some familiar doors and some new doors to allow us to re-connect. We still have a ways to go and there are still a number who are not able to attend in-person, yet – where we are now versus where we were then – our renewed fellowship has been a blessing.

Mission

We have had an extraordinary year building and renewing relationships with the people we support on the mission field: locally, nationally, and internationally. What a blessing it was to have Todd and Kelli Butterworth and Lu Hawley with us for an extended period this summer! Further, as I will mention below, because of the faithfulness of this congregation in giving, we were able to fully meet the financial promises to all of those we support.

The plans for sewing seeds for new congregations had to be put on hold because of two simple factors: the restrictions on gathering together in numbers and the severely limited inventory on the housing market making it virtually impossible for a church planter to consider moving here from outside the area. We continue to pray that God make the way clear for opportunities to do frontier, kingdom-building, congregation-planting activities.



From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

As we consider the missionaries we support, we can marvel.

Internationally, God is starting new congregations in Ecuador and Guatemala. God is strengthening congregations in Belize and Thailand. God is providing comfort and relief in many areas through Mission Aviation Fellowship. God is creating new sustainable communities in Ethiopia.

Nationally, God is using the people we support to bless those at the border, to provide comfort through disaster relief from hurricanes, and to share the gospel with those who have come to the United States for a better life.

Locally, God has opened our doors to help those in need through Night Off The Streets, support for the Ron Wood Resource Center, FISH, and the Northern Nevada Dream Center. We have provided Christmas blessings through Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree. We have stood with those who are powerless with our support of Advocates To End Domestic Violence.

There are many other ways individually and corporately we have been called to extend God's blessings out – living into the vision of “opening the gospel to Carson City and beyond.”

Ministry

We continue to experience the shift in how ministry is done: from large group contexts to more individualized and relationship-oriented approaches. The goal remains to get as many people involved in growing in their faith through service and study – it is just *how* we do that will look different.

The electronic media ministry is the most obvious illustration of how things are changing. We are developing opportunities for sound and video production, and post-production projects (worship, interviews, midweek announcements, theological tutorials, etc.). Each of these projects will involve either individuals or small groups to develop and produce.

We continue to encourage participation of individuals and small groups to participate in worship. From soloists to as many as eight, we are providing opportunities for people to offer their musical gifts in worship. We are continuing with our liturgists, mission messages, and elder of the day pieces.

God has produced fruit through the ministry. We have had several profession of faith baptisms. We have had several classes of new covenant partners (members). We see new faces in worship regularly.

Aunt Betty's Studios has been an emphasis and priority as we experiment with ministries that offer more people opportunities to do things as individuals and small groups. People from this congregation are sharing their faith via the “Great Cloud Of Witnesses Project.” Numerous musicians have participated in the “Story Behind The Hymn with Faye Wheeler” program. There have been skits involving an ad hoc group of Aunt Betty's Studios Players. The Nevada Day Special edition of the “Mary and Sherri Show” had a wide range from throughout the congregation participating. We have produced Public Service Announcements on behalf of Sheriff Furlong and the Night Off The Streets (NOTS). As of mid-November (when I am writing), YouTube reports that our channel has had 2,400+ *hours* of views.

Again, God has opened doors to allow us to minister with individuals and small groups to get the gospel out to the larger community. The learning curve has been steep. Even so, we have seen God bear fruit every step of the way.

Prayer

Prayer is a constant work of faith. We are called to pray without ceasing. We are called to pray individually and to pray corporately.

Individually, devoting time to pray for the congregation – its people, its fellowship, its witness, its ministries, its mission – is essential. It can be tough in a world that values busy-ness; however, know that time spent in prayer is never wasted time.

Corporate prayer (praying together) has been more difficult, but not impossible. We have shared in corporate prayer during worship Sunday mornings. We have a hybrid model of corporate prayer with our Wednesday “concert” of prayer. Margo has been sending out a prayer chain email to those called to intercessory prayer.

God has answered our prayers in so many ways: individual health needs, comfort to those hurting or grieving, providing ways to fulfill the things He set before us, sustaining us through a difficult and uncertain season, and navigating ways into this new vision of “opening the gospel to Carson City and beyond.” We can get so

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

lost in the pressing needs of the day that we can sometimes fail to see how well God has carried us – but when we remember the things about which we have prayed, we see how God has responded greater than we could have imagined.

Finances

At the end of October – the last full month reported at the time I am writing this article – income has exceeded expenses by a margin. We have NOT had income to the level anticipated by the budget; however, the people of this congregation have been generous and faithful in their giving. The session and staff have been careful stewards of the gifts actually received.

Additionally, we have received grants that covered some major expenses – like roof repairs on *both* the old and new sanctuary/FLC areas. We received gifts to help with purchasing upgraded technical equipment.

The point is that God provided the resources to do the things He led us to do. We serve an awesome God!

A Bonus One

Not included in this list was at least one thing that had a major impact on the life of this congregation: specifically, Karen Dahlen's retirement as Music Director. We did not know that was going to happen at the beginning of 2021. Nonetheless, we were able to celebrate Karen's ministry with this congregation *and* see God's hand raising up people to lead us in singing God's praise since the beginning of June. The people with gifts who have contributed in worship and ministry have been an incredible blessing.

The reality is that we have seen God's faithfulness throughout and have reason to rejoice. It is important we do so. As challenging and trying as has been this extended COVID season, we have seen God move mightily. Let's tell that story as we come into the season where we remember God's greatest gift of all: his Son, Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The following nominations were presented at the November 21st Congregational meeting:

NOMINEES FOR ELDER:

Class of 2022: George Branson

Class of 2024: (First term) Laurie Trotter-Bopko and Dale Hatchell; (Second Term) Bob Stansbury, George Stanton

NOMINEES FOR DEACON

Class of 2024: (First Term) Anne Johnson and Charlene Rodman; (Second Term) Pat Angel Skinkis, Gladyce Jesse, Jenny Scanland

NOMINATING COMMISSION 2022

George Stanton (chair), Jane Hancock, Charlene Rodman, Rob Scanland, Dede Stevens, Lynne Weaver, Faye Wheeler

**TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
JANUARY / FEBRUARY**

Is December 17

2021 Annual Report Deadline

Is December 31

Send your info / articles / submissions to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

Congregational Giving—General Budget

2021 Projected

	Budget Need	Given	Difference
<i>November 16, 2021</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$471,513	\$337,214	- \$134,299
<u>Current</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$337,214	\$352,234	- \$ 15,020
<u>ECO Dues</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	
	\$ 3,015	\$ 5,200	

THANK YOU, ALL!!

Merry Christmas—Christ is born!

Family Ministries

Grafting Day
October 23, 2021



CHRISTMAS CAROLING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 6PM
MEET AT THE CHURCH ON DIVISION STREET

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER!

WE WILL BE RIDING IN A TRAILER ON HAY BALES AROUND THE WESTSIDE.
WORDS WILL BE PROVIDED
BRING A FLASHLIGHT
AND
YOUR MOST FESTIVE HATS AND SCARVES

AFTERWARDS, WE WILL HEAD UP TO
AUNT BETTY'S STUDIO
FOR HOT COCOA WITH MARSHMALLOWS
WHILE WE WATCH
A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

The Great Cloud of Witnesses Project
We want everyone involved in this powerful endeavor.

We are reaching out to people, but that takes time. If you are ready to tell your story, please contact Sandy Hatchell to schedule.



And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:9-11



Dear church family-

Thank you to Donald Scherer for another great and successful Nevada day celebration with Cookies, Cocoa and Christ.

Thank you to all of you who made many wonderful cookies and the special coffee cake bars! Who was that by the way?

Thanks to all who helped and visited us as well!

Everyone was so thankful for all we provided, our friendliness, and especially bathroom visits!

I had many great stories from people who stopped by the church:

One older lady shared that she was baptized in our old church and that Duane Glanzmann was her Sunday school teacher. I showed them Kay Glanzmann's decorations and they were touched by her beautiful work. Another lady expressed a special connection to the church, her elder family members had memorial services in our Family Life Center. Yet another lady told me she had winter football practice in the Family Life Center. People were thankful to come back and see how our church has changed.

Charlene did some church tours and we even were given donations to help the first stages for our old building renovations. Thanks again everyone!

With Love, Jill Hettrick



Christmas Bags on the move to homes this Christmas!

Thank you for all the food items, beautiful knit blankets, cards and money. Nineteen bags were shipped out to the Dream Center on this particular day. Stay tuned for update on bag numbers in January.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

You returned **80** Operation Christmas Child boxes! They are on their way to children around the world.

✦ If you filled a box online let us me know so we can add it to our count.
Thank you! Lynne Weaver



FELLOWSHIP DINNERS ARE COMING BACK!

Are you interested in getting to know others in our church family? Then we hope you'll attend a Friendship Supper! We are once again able to have these small social gatherings in individual homes to share fellowship, food and fun. Friendship Suppers usually consist of a group of 6 or 8 with the host furnishing the main dish and guests bringing a dish to share. We will have the first one in January—sign ups start after the church service on January 2 to either host or be a guest. In the past we have had 7 or 8 homes with 64 TOTAL attending!! Looking forward to seeing you there! For information or concerns call Sandy Ehresman or Diane Young

DESERT SCHOONERS NEWS

The Desert Schooners, a fellowship and service organization, has been known in this church for many, many years. Due to the pandemic, member health reasons, and lack of interest, we have voted to disband and will no longer be in operation. The group has donated over \$3,100 to the preservation of the old sanctuary from assets.

Desert Schooners became part of the National Presbyterian Mariners on September 30, 1961 and members served in many capacities such as elders, deacons, choir, janitorial work, lawn maintenance, painters, etc. It was aptly put: "We have helped where needed in the life of this historic church." Up until the year 2000, they had donated nearly \$25,000 to projects in the church. Since then they have also sponsored the annual Chili Cookoff which has been a popular fellowship and fundraising activity for the church (an annual tradition that will continue on, led by others).

Regretfully submitted,
Sandy Ehresman, Wagonmaster



MISSION OUTREACH CORNER

Back to Belize!

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us.
Ephesians 2:10*



In March 2022 a mission team from our church plans to spend twelve days in Seine Bight, Belize. Ours will be the first mission team to Seine Bight since before the pandemic, so, there will be plenty to do from fixing houses and working around the church, to activities with the children. We also plan to purchase children and youth clothing and flipflops to give to the church for their clothing giveaway (photos show last year's giveaway). The pandemic caused severe hardships in the village of Seine Bight and this will be a great opportunity to share God's love with them.



You can support this mission with your prayers, and if possible, donations to help with the costs of this mission trip, building supplies, and children's clothing (please note "Belize Mission" on check memo line).

Michael Klug



Fellowship of Christian Athletes Christmas Tree Outreach

Looking for the place to buy your Christmas tree this year?

The lot is open every day 10am-7pm beginning Friday, November 26th and is located on S. Carson Street across from the Ormsby House

All proceeds benefit the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes Ministry and helping families in need with clothing and Christmas gifts.

Here are the best ways to support this Outreach:

- 1) Shop here for your fresh cut Christmas Tree
- 2) Make a donation toward a tree for a family in need in our community.
- 3) Make a donation to help support our 3rd Annual Trees for Troops. We provide 75 Christmas trees and tree stands to our service men and women at the military base in Coleville.
- 4) Sign up to volunteer at the tree lot or to bring a warm meal for the volunteers.

Please make all donations out to "FCA" (not the church) and drop it off at the tree lot or at the FPC Office

Contact Timothy Plummer at 775-720-9158 or tplummer@fca.org





LOOKING AHEAD TO ZOZZ



First Presbyterian Church is getting busier and busier as things get back to a more normal pace. (Happily for me, there are a lot more wonderful, delicious crumbs to be had from the Sunday morning Fellowship, that Deacon Thanksgiving feast (YUM!), and other gatherings.)

When I listen in to the various committees and meetings, I overhear some of the great plans for the upcoming year! Here are a few to put on your calendar:

To help support the Old Sanctuary Preservation effort:

February—the Chili Cook-off returns

May—a performance of “Mark Twain’s Nevada” with McAvoy Lane

June—a rummage sale

October—A Fall Holiday Craft Fair

If you have questions about these events or would like to volunteer to help, contact Grace Speicher at 406-431-9073 or spikr54@hotmail.com

In January, the Adult Bible Study will begin Part 2 of the “Believe” series being led by Bill Rose—Sundays at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall

In February, Pastor Bob will begin his Spring series for the Pastor’s Study on Wednesday mornings and evenings (including Zoom).

Friendship Suppers are planned to start up again in the new year—watch for details about these in future Trumpets!

If you want to get involved, there are LOTS of possibilities. FPC has MANY opportunities for you to volunteer and **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** YOU may have just the skill that is being sought or if you’re not experienced but have an interest, we can train you!

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

Audio/Visual Team: preparation and running of PowerPoint presentations; helping with equipment set up for rehearsals and Sunday mornings; running the livestream broadcast 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

There is a need for some “Roadies” to help with table and chair set up for various events—contact Margo in the church office to volunteer

God’s got great things planned for FPC so STAY TUNED and GET INVOLVED!!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE TRUMPET

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The Rev. Bob Davis
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services

10:00 AM

Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

Submit Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles to
margo@fpccarsoncity.org. Articles may be edited for
 space. See calendar for the upcoming due date.
 Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by George &
 Connie Stanton.

This Month's Sermons

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 5 | Isaiah 9: 2-7
"The God of Peace" |
| December 12 | Isaiah 55: 1-13
"So That Your joy May Be Complete" |
| December 19 | Isaiah 54: 1-10
"Love One Another As I Have Loved You" |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve |
| December 26 | TBA |

See us and
 "Like" us on



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's</p> <p>9:00 am Grace Notes</p>	<p>8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's</p> <p><i>National Mutt Day</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Berean Bible Study - FPC Library</p>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>10:00 am COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>11:30 am Coffee Fellowship - FLC</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study - location varies</p> <p>PEARL HARBOR <i>Remembrance Day</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's</p> <p>9:00 am Grace Notes</p>	<p>8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's</p> <p>1:30 pm Women's Bible Study - Library</p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Berean Bible Study - FPC Library</p>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>11:30 am Coffee Fellowship - FLC</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study - location varies</p>	<p>8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's</p> <p>9:00 am Grace Notes</p> <p><i>Herding Cats Day</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's</p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Berean Bible Study - FPC Library</p> <p>January/February Trumpet Deadline</p> <p>Christmas Carols Caroling & Movie Night</p>	<p><i>Ugly Christmas Sweater Day</i></p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>11:30 am Coffee Fellowship - FLC</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study - location varies</p>	<p>8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's</p> <p>9:00 am Grace Notes</p>	<p>8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's</p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>Candlelight Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>Welcome Jesus!</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	January 1, 2022!
<p>10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>11:30 am Coffee Fellowship - FLC</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>8:30 am SON Rise Women's Bible Study - location varies</p> <p><i>Card Playing Day</i></p>	<p>8:00 am Men's Bible Study - Mallard's</p>	<p>8:00 am Wilson Men's Fellowship - Mallard's</p> <p>7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Berean Bible Study - FPC Library</p>	<p>A New Year Begins</p>

FH=Fellowship Hall

FLC=Family Life Center

PBP=Presbypod Room, upstairs

To confirm availability and reserve use of a room, contact Margo in the church office - 882-1032