

The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 49 No. 10

From the Pastor's Workshop

NOVEMBER 2012

"Rejoicing in Leftovers"

As you read this, Nancy and I will be traveling in Germany for a week; exploring a tour of the Reformation in anticipation of leading others on this same adventure next year at this time. The brochures are in the narthex. In addition to the Reformation, our focus will be on "Christ in the Arts". We are so excited about the privilege of getting to see this part of the world. We have never been to the places we will see. I am grateful to get to see where Karl Barth taught in Basel, Switzerland, where John Calvin pastored in Strasbourg, France, and where the Heidelberg catechism was written in 1562! And perhaps something I am most grateful for is an evening with my relatives Harald and Mucke Kochsmeier in Speyer, Germany. We have never met! We have only communicated over the internet. And where will we meet? Where Germans LOVE to meet of course, in a brewery restaurant, the Domhof in Speyer near the ancient cathedral.

But as much as this adventure means, I will love coming home early in November to fall and that season when the air turns cold and we start to think of "comfort food". Many of you know I love to cook. Kochsmeier means "one who cooks". And I love to cook because I love to eat, because I love to gather people for all the joy that happens with a great meal...AND because I love leftovers! Yes, leftovers make the best meals in many ways. There's a little bit of everything and if you do it just right, it all savors together into a flavor that is just right.

Like most of you, I grew up on leftovers. Maybe I didn't always appreciate it, but I have come to look back and realize what a gift I was given in not only learning not to waste, but in recognizing the unique flavor that comes from pulling things together that no one thought of putting together. Not only were our meals like this, our home was made of leftovers. My dad got used lumber. My first bike was a combination of pieces my dad found in a ditch and welded together. My first motorized two-wheeler was the same. And I've learned, in looking back, what a gift leftovers are because they are filled not only with love but with the unique touch of the giver.

With Thanksgiving this month we will have the joy of leftovers and I don't mean just food. Even if you don't have leftovers at your house we will celebrate leftovers in the life of the church, and every one of us gets to partake. We'll have our annual Thanksgiving meal following our ONE SERVICE at 10 AM on November 18. And you can take some leftovers home (if we don't eat it all!) But the best leftovers are the ones that come from celebrating that when we give ourselves AS A BODY to God's mission, when we bring what God has given us into God's house for God's service, there is always more than enough to make into something else and THAT something else is flavored with your devotion to God. And this takes the Thanksgiving meal of God's love into hungry places in the world.

We are all kinds of different flavors that God has brought together for the purpose of showing his love to a world that is hungry and upside down and where people are alienated from one another. When we come together with our pledges and our potlucks, our hearts and lives simmer together to make something no one but GOD could have cooked up. Jesus Christ has spread a bounty for us in giving himself to us so that we would have more than enough and the BEST of the leftovers to share with the world.

On November 18 we celebrate this as we bring our pledges. I'd like to ask you to bring someone with you who can stay for the Thanksgiving meal. Let's be sure to invite someone who needs to know the savory love of Jesus Christ that is known as God's people share the abundance of his love.

We'll have a new member's orientation following the meal to invite people to know more about what it means to be part of this abundance of God's love.

There is nothing that will heal the human heart like the love of Jesus Christ made known in the warmth of an invitation to come and receive what God is offering us. I look forward to sharing this with you, not just this month, but every day as we continue to extend to the world the saving grace of "dining with Jesus". Bon appetite!

Yours in the joy of Christ's love,
Bruce

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK, Sunday, November 18 after one
service at 10:00 AM. Bring food or not – all are welcome!

Thoughts from Dan

I just finished reading my first non-fiction book in years! Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness unto Death* (1849) doesn't have the world's friendliest title, but it contains real wisdom. Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher and a Christian who wrestled with what it meant to *be oneself*. In other words, what does it mean for someone to personally engage in his or her life? For Kierkegaard, abstract ideas about God and how the universe works were pointless unless they mattered to *you in your life*.

His influence can be felt very strongly in American evangelical Christianity. Have you ever heard anyone talk about the difference between Christianity as a "religion" and Christianity as a "personal relationship with Jesus"? We can thank Kierkegaard for this very important distinction!

In *The Sickness*, Kierkegaard explains that a person is defined by his or her relationship with external things. The bigger the external things, the bigger the person's *self* can be. If someone is only aware of basic stuff like food, pleasure and pain, then that person is going to have a very small *self*. If an individual is aware of other *people* around him, he'll have a bigger *self*. For example, when you find yourself stuck in traffic on a crowded highway, you can think of the other cars as annoying obstacles on your path. Or you can realize that each car has at least one person inside who has a life story just as real as your own. Or – even better yet – you could realize that each person in each car and in fact all living things are created and sustained by God, who is constantly at work in every corner of the world.

When we are aware of God, we have the potential to *be* the biggest possible versions of *ourselves*, because there is nothing bigger than God. However, we aren't always mindful of God, and we turn down the opportunity to be defined by that all-important relationship. We end up just like the Israelites who followed God out of Egypt only to make a golden calf as soon as they got bored. They didn't want to define themselves according to their relationship with the living God because the Lord was too big and unmanageable for their tastes. So they chose to define themselves by a much tamer idol that they could control.

The sickness that Kierkegaard writes about is *despair*, or the failure to personally engage with God and to live out God's plan for one's life. Romans 14:23 plays a central role in the book: "For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." In other words, when we are aware of God and make Jesus our only priority in life, we live a life of *faith*. When we despair of this relationship and settle for something else in life, we *sin*. The sin is intensified the more we are aware of Jesus and still choose to ignore Him.

The Sickness unto Death was written in a time when most of Europe considered itself Christian. Kierkegaard was of the opinion that most "Christians" took their faith for granted and lived their lives in a very haphazard fashion, blown about by personal whims and life events. Does that sound familiar? How about you? Do you recognize that God is right before you and desires to be in a relationship with you? Living with this understanding every day seems like a burden until you consider the alternatives! "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Dan

Some Quotes from Kierkegaard

"It is so hard to believe because it is so hard to obey."

"God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners."

"There is nothing with which every man is so afraid as getting to know how enormously much he is capable of doing and becoming."

"The matter is quite simple. The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand we are obliged to act accordingly. Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly. My God, you will say, if I do that my whole life will be ruined. How would I ever get on in the world? Herein lies the real place of Christian scholarship. Christian scholarship is the Church's prodigious invention to defend itself against the Bible, to ensure that we can continue to be good Christians without the Bible coming too close. Oh, priceless scholarship, what would we do without you? Dreadful it is to fall into the hands of the living God. Yes, it is even dreadful to be alone with the New Testament."



THE KING'S KIDS – NOVEMBER



...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

Highlights from our Sunday Experience



Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go!



Moses: "Hey, God parted the waters of the Red Sea!"



Crossing the Red Sea

KING'S KIDS SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

Kids experiencing Jesus as we walk through God's BIG Story!

- 11/04: "The Perfect Tent" (God gives instructions for a Worship place: Exodus 25, 35-36, 39-40)
- 11/11: "Top Secret Spies" (God shows the Promised Land: Numbers 13 & 14)
- 11/18: "Risky Business" (God uses Rahab to save lives: Joshua 2)
- 11/25: "Thanksgiving Special"



NOTE: King's Kids (kindergarten through 5th grade) will come straight upstairs on Sundays at 9:00 (starting Nov. 11, so we can practice our songs for the Christmas Program on Dec. 9th)

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

Memorize these verses as a family and see how God uses them in your lives!

The 10 Commandments

-and-

"Choose this day whom you will serve...
But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15



Older King's Kids' challenge:

The 10 Commandments – and/or -

Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles



Mark your calendars!

Sunday, Dec. 2: 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. ADVENT WORKSHOP & PIZZA

(A "make-it-take-it" workshop of Christmas crafts – bring a friend!)

Saturday, Dec. 8: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

(ALL King's Kids ages Kindergarten through 5th Grade)

Sunday, Dec. 9: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant (only 1 service that day!)

(Come enjoy the King's Kids and Youth as they re-enact the story of Jesus' birth)



(Watch your Sunday bulletins & December Trumpet for other upcoming activities)

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM November

by Karen Dahlen

Seasons ---

What comes to mind when you think of the word seasons? We are experiencing a change of season right now as we move deeper into fall, surely, but I'm thinking of a different type of season. Many years ago, when I was in junior high and high school, I would look forward to the change from summer to fall as I wanted to get back into the school activities and social life. However, when summer turned to fall and the seasons changed, there was also something like "sadness" too that seemed to be associated with the change. I guess the shorter days and the cooler weather that brought with it such brilliant color, made me a little sad because of less daylight and the death of the flowers and plants that were so robust in summer. Once I got into the new routine, I didn't think so much about the negatives of the change, and looked forward to the challenges of the schedule.

God has seasons for all of us. In each season we are asked to look to Him to provide the guidance for everything. Fully relying on God makes our decisions easier and helps us to grow in His love. Our music program is experiencing a change of season right now in that we have fewer people able to participate in the instrumental groups. That means we need to put those groups on hold for the time being. My initial response was "God, what are You doing?", but I recognize that we are all volunteers in the plan that God has for us. And as volunteers, some folks are not able right now, due to work and other obligations, to commit to a once a week rehearsal for the purposes of preparing music for worship. So, while I'm "sad" that the instrumental groups are having an extended break, there is other opportunity for instrumentalists in the form of solos, duets, etc. If you are interested, please contact me to let me know and we'll find a place for you in the music schedule.

Here's what November brings in musical opportunities:

The Carson City Chamber Singers will present an all sacred concert in our Sanctuary on Friday evening, November 2 at 7:00 PM. Admission is free, but donations are gladly accepted in the Narthex. If you like choral music, this is a good concert to attend! Sunday morning music for November will feature Doug Poole, the Gracenotes and Gracenotes Lite, the Praise Team and Chancel Choir.

We are gearing up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons so we invite those who would like to sing with the choir to please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Please note the abbreviated rehearsal schedule in November.

Musically yours in His service,
Karen

BLESSING BAGS

Blessing Bags for the needy, for each of you to pass out to show God's love for all, are available in the Narthex. Take some with you to give away during the week.

Exploring Membership at First Presbyterian – On November 18 following our Thanksgiving banquet at about 1 PM we will be offering a one and half hour opportunity to discover what it means to be a member in this congregation. There is no obligation to join. This will simply be a time to ask questions and hear what our mission is about and how to formally become part of it. Please call the church office to let us know if you would like to attend. 882-1032.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Come help decorate the church and our Christmas tree at the end of this month. Advent begins Sunday, December 2, so we will meet at the church the day before (Saturday, December 1) at 9:00 AM and work until it is done. We're hoping for a good turnout! Contact Mary Lou Pawley with questions (461-0061).

NOVEMBER SERMONS;

November 4 – "Belief and Unbelief"
Mark 9:14-29

November 11 – "A Promise Fulfilled" Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

November 18 – "One Heart"
Acts 4:32-37

November 25 – "The Coronation" John 18:33-37

Poinsettias



The Deacons place poinsettias in the Sanctuary for worship services in memory or honor of your loved ones. These will be acknowledged in a bulletin insert. The deadline to order plants is December 14 and the cost is \$9.50 per plant. People who wish to take their plants may do so after the Christmas Eve service. Place this completed form in the offering plate along with your check marked "Poinsettia" or take it to the church office. Thank you for helping.

Your name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up plant after Christmas Eve.

_____ Deacons may deliver plant to someone.

_____ Number of plants ordered (limit 3)

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS



The Angel Tree Program gives our church an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. When mom or dad is in prison, it's the children who do the hard time. We can let them know they are not forgotten. Let us give the child of a prisoner the joy of Christmas this year.

Please ask Dawn Berger or any other Mission Committee member how you may help.

Angel Tree is a powerful way for our congregation to lovingly answer the call to minister "to the least of these"
(Matthew 25:40).

PLEASE WATCH FOR DETAILS ON THE MISSION BULLETIN BOARD LOCATED IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER AND IN UPCOMING SUNDAY BULLETINS.



A CHRISTMAS DINNER INVITATION FOR ALL

Sponsored by the Desert Schooners

**December 9, 2012
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

A church wide Potluck Dinner is the perfect way to kick-off your Christmas Season. It begins at 5:30 p.m. on December 9, 2011.

Bring your dish and enjoy sharing our meal together: **A-J main dish; K-P salad; Q-Z dessert.** Beverages will be provided. The Nursery will be available upon request.

After dinner, the celebration continues with a Hand Bell Concert that begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be congregational participation as we sing Christmas Carols in between the Hand Bell offerings.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Potluck Dinner and Hand Bell concert.

SAVE the DATE - Dec 9th at 7pm

Do you like to sing Christmas carols?
Do you like to listen to the Grace Notes handbell choir?
You can do both at the same event. Come at 7pm
to kick off the Christmas season as Grace Notes presents:

RING and SING 

There will be a full worship concert of handbell music interspersed with Christmas carols sung by the congregation. Come and enjoy!

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9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

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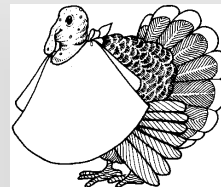
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sjhatchellfpc@gmail.com.
Articles may be edited to fit
space. Trumpet mailing led by
Bette Denning.

Mark your calendars! Sunday, November 18!

One Service at 10:00 AM
Commitment Sunday

Followed by a Thanksgiving Dinner
Hosted by the Deacons



THANKSGIVING MEAL

It's a wonderful time of thanksgiving, fellowship and great food! If you wish to do so, we ask that those whose name begins with the letters:

- A-J** bring potatoes or stuffing
- K-R** bring a dessert
- S-Z** bring a salad

Or just bring your specialty!!! Deacons will provide the turkey, ham, cranberry sauce, rolls and gravy.

***Please know you do not have to bring a dish
to join us for this lovely dinner.***