



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 49 No. 11

December 2012/January 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop

“Christmas All Year Long”

I have a confession to make...I've already opened my Christmas presents! No, not the ones under the tree, ones even better than those. I've been opening them every day all year. I think I might have missed one day so far, but I opened two the next day. What am I talking about? I'm talking about reading through the Bible in a year. This has been such a rich experience of receiving “grace upon grace” (John 1:16). The greatest gift has been knowing that I am walking with you, as together we let God tell us the story of his redeeming love. Sometimes it hasn't been a very pretty picture. Sometimes the names and genealogies have been long. Sometimes seeing my own face in the rebellion of God's people has been painful, but I have found it a treasure to simply be carried by God's Holy Spirit as I open God's word and let God speak to me every day. It really is Christmas all year long.

This month we get to celebrate the focal point of God's story; the incarnation of God's love poured out to us as God chose to be born in person. What will that mean for us this year? How will we allow ourselves to experience it? How will we pass this on to a world in need of the light of Jesus Christ? These will be questions we will work through together as we worship throughout December.

I hope you have had a fruitful time of “opening your presents” each day this year and that you will join me in starting over in January. I have a sense that I will be doing this the rest of my life, because even though I have read and studied the Bible my entire life, I'm finding there is nothing like simply reading through it EVERY DAY and letting it take hold of me. This is what we do when we let ourselves “come to the manger”. Beyond words and explanation, we receive a gift that makes us whole, but only as we come.

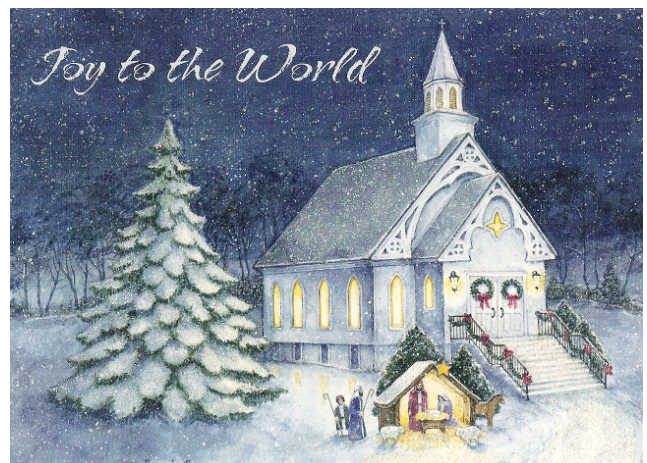
We will continue to experience this as we move into 2013. We will gather for ONE SERVICE on January 27 for our annual congregational meeting at 10:00 AM. This will be an important time of looking back over how God has carried us and how God is leading us to proclaim the Gospel in this New Year. And again we get to “open our presents” by being open to the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

Who do you know that needs a present every day? Who is it that needs an “invitation to the manger”? There are so many. Who in your life needs a copy of “My Heart, Christ's Home”? Have you read it? Maybe it's time to give your copy away and come get another one. This is part of Christmas all year long; knowing that Jesus Christ came into the world to LIVE in our lives so that we may LIVE with him forever.

Thank you for being so faithful. Thank you for being partners in the journey. Thank you for joining in the journey to the manger and inviting others to join you. I look forward to this season of discovery with you.

See you in “Bethlehem”,

Bruce



Christmas is all about Good News

You have probably noticed that there is a battle going on over the “meaning of Christmas.” Walmart has announced that they will begin Black Friday sales at 8pm on Thanksgiving Day, and many other retailers have followed suit. In our current economy, many place their “hope” in the economic impact of Christmas – as if salvation meant a growing economy and low unemployment!

What are we going to do about this pervasive materialistic understanding of Christmas? Should we challenge the commercial giants head-on? Should we try to shout over the din of all the ads and generic “holiday” celebrations? What strategy would God have us use?

Jesus entered the world at a similar time. Herod the Great was king over Judea and touted his importance through massive building projects. Augustus Caesar had recently become emperor and established *Pax Romana* – an era of peace and prosperity made possible by the domination of the Roman Empire. In the midst of all these mighty powers, Jesus was born and laid in a humble manger. Instead of challenging the powers of his day head-on, he called fishermen to be his disciples, said things like “my kingdom is not of this world,” and carried out his Father’s will on a wooden cross.

And yet, Jesus has established an eternal kingdom that outlasted even the mighty Roman Empire. Napoleon Bonaparte described the triumph of Christ in this way at the height of Christendom: “I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of people would die for Him.”

We have a secret weapon in the battle for the meaning of Christmas; advertisers call it “word of mouth.” Word of mouth happens when people who know each other talk about a product, service or experience. It is highly valuable, because we tend to trust people we know much more than any print or TV ad. The neat thing about word of mouth is that it only works when the product is of such high quality or value that it inspires someone to talk about it.

Christmas is all about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Has Jesus made a difference in your life? If so, tell someone about it! Invite them to experience the love of Christ for themselves. Invite them to our Christmas Pageant on December 9. Invite them to join us for worship all throughout Advent and at our Candle-light Christmas Eve services. If you are unhappy about all the misinformation about Christmas that is out there, or if you are happy to know your Savior – share the Good News. There is no greater gift.

Dan

Confirmation is when young people join the church as adult members. We practice infant baptism in the Presbyterian tradition, and young people are automatically members of the church on account of their parents' faith. When young people are old enough to confess their own faith, we *confirm* their membership and welcome them as full-fledged members.

I know from my own experience that I can't remember my baptism. I can't remember my first sincere prayer to God or when I began to understand the meaning behind “Amazing Grace.” But I can remember my confirmation. Confirmation was the first time that other Christians asked me, “What about you, Dan? What do you believe?” It prompted me to take my faith seriously. Before confirmation, I knew *about* Jesus. After confirmation, I began to *know* Jesus.

We will offer confirmation for youth in ninth grade and older beginning in January. It will take place during the 10:45am service. We're going to start the course with an overnight retreat (details TBD) and Confirmation/Youth Sunday will take place on May 19. Please let me know if you have any questions!



THE KING'S KIDS – DECEMBER and JANUARY



...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



"Master Spy" Ron tells the story of the 12 spies sent into the Promised Land by Joshua.

Highlights from our Sunday Experience



"Spies in Training" (the Kids) looked for fruit in the Promised Land, and loaded it onto a big pole like the one the Bible spies had.



Big Idea: Even when others choose not to, I will keep trusting God!



KING'S KIDS SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

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

12/02: "Promise Announced" (an angel visits Zechariah & Mary: Luke 1)

Note: King's Kids (kindergarten through 5th grade) will come straight upstairs on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 9:00, so we can practice our songs for the Christmas Program on Dec. 9th

12/16: "Angelic Invitation" (Shepherds come to see Baby Jesus: Luke 2)

12/23: "Call Him Jesus" (Simeon & Anna recognize Baby Jesus at the Temple)

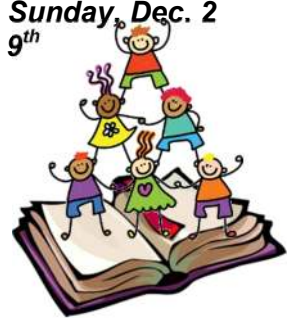
12/30: "Worship the Newborn King" (Wisemen come to worship Jesus: Matthew 2:1-15)

1/06: "Miracle at the Jordan" (God parts the waters of the Jordan River: Joshua 3)

1/13: "The Fall of a Wall" (God wins the battle at Jericho: Joshua 6)

1/20: "Achin' Achan" (Achan disobeys God: Joshua 6 & 7)

1/27: "Trick or Treaty" (Joshua & the Gibeonites: Joshua 9-10)



DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES

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

To you is born this day... a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

Older King's Kids' challenge:

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. "God's Good News Story" (only 1 service that day!)

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



**Sunday, Dec. 16: 9:00 a.m. King's Kids light the Advent wreath at the beginning of Worship
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.: Open House at the Kochsmeiers' home**

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

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**Prepare the Way of the Lord -- Isaiah 40:3**

As I write this I am cruising to 41,000 feet on my return to Reno from study leave in the Seattle area. I was blessed to meet with other music and worship professionals last week in a conference called Christian Musician Summit. Thank you for allowing me to attend! I was refreshed and I renewed my understanding of worship.

One of the topics that was covered in the conference, as you might imagine, was worship. Preparing our hearts and making the way clear for the Lord is a part of that. Do we come to worship to be entertained or to watch? Hopefully we answer that question by saying "none of the above". At the conference we heard "Worship is not a spectator sport." Key to understanding worship is the idea that worshipping God is not about our receiving something during a worship service, but about us offering ourselves to Him as an act of obedience and humility. Do we realize that our worship of God, by itself, without the intervening presence of Jesus Christ, is unacceptable to God? We are called to set aside our personal preferences of style and medium and to submit wholly to the person of The Lord Jesus Christ in our midst when we enter worship. For it is only through Him, and the Holy Spirit that we are even able to be in God's presence. Think about the veil in the temple at Jerusalem and what happened to it when Christ uttered the words, "It is finished." (Matthew 27: 50-51) How do we dare approach worship in any way other than through obedience, humility, and, some might argue, in a facedown position?

As we come into this Advent season, a time of waiting and preparation prior to Christmas and further, through Christmas and the new year; let us approach the worship of the Lord as those who hope only in Him. Maybe, it's easier for some of us to say that than to do it, but if we consciously practice offering our whole heart to the Lord when we worship, even if we're having an "off" day or can't physically feel Him with us, we will be at the beginning of understanding what is required of us in worship. Let us worship the God of the universe in obedience to Who He Is, and with great anticipation of what He can show us as we bow our hearts and lives in adoration. Let us offer our lives to Him as servants for His use in His Kingdom here on earth.

Here are the opportunities to serve Him in the music program during December and January:

Now is the time to join in as the Chancel Choir rehearses for Advent and Christmas. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The Women's Choir will meet on Wednesdays, December 5th and 12th at 8:00 PM following the Chancel Choir rehearsals. Women's Choir will present in both services on Sunday, December 16th.

Following the Christmas Eve services, both the Praise Team and the Chancel Choir will take a short time off before resuming rehearsals in January. Chancel Choir returns to rehearsal on Wednesday, January 9th, and both groups will return to Sunday services beginning on January 13th.

Blessed Christmas and New Year,

Karen

**BABY SHOWER FOR DAN AND LESLIE**



Come shower Dan, Leslie and Baby Aument with your prayers and blessings on Saturday, January 12th (1:00 – 3:00 PM) in the Family Life Center. If you wish to give a gift, "Little Girl" Aument is registered at Target and at Amazon.com (they carry much more than books these days), and gift cards are always appreciated. Come and celebrate with us!

**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).

**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.

# ADVENT EVENTS

**Saturday, December 8, 2:00 PM**

## **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA**

All ladies are invited to tea and bring a Christmas ornament to exchange. You may also bring tea sandwiches or a dessert. Of Course your prettiest tea pot will be welcome. There will be babysitting offered. Call Carolyn Knutson at 841-6146 with questions. See you there.

**Sunday, December 2, 2:00 - 4:30 PM**

**ADVENT WORKSHOP** – Come and make Christmas decorations for your home, listen to a Christmas Story, and sing some Christmas Carols. We'll conclude our afternoon with Pizza!

**Thursday, December 13, 1:30 PM**

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Meet in the church library. Come study and celebrate the season.

**Sunday, December 9, 10:00 AM**

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "God's Good News Story"**

ONE service only at 10:00 AM!

Enjoy this re-enactment of the First Christmas by our King's Kids and Youth.

**Sunday, December 9, 5:30 PM**

## **DESERT SCHOONERS' CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

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



**Sunday, December 9, 7:00 PM**

## **GRACE NOTES PRESENTS "RING AND SING"**

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 7 PM to kick off the Christmas season. There will be a full worship concert of handbell music interspersed with Christmas carols sung by the congregation. Come and enjoy!

## **Week of December 12th**

### **ANGEL TREE**

It starts with a GIFT and leads to TRANSFORMED LIVES through Jesus Christ. 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.



The Mission Committee wishes to THANK YOU for your love and generosity, and again giving the child of a prisoner the joy of Christmas this year. Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that focus on transformation in the lives of the children of prisoners and fostering reconciliation between the child, prisoner-parent and family.

**ANGEL TREE GIFTS WILL BE PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO THE CHILDREN THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10TH THROUGH THE 20TH.**

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Since the 1930's the Christmas Joy Offering has been a special offering designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church. This year half of this offering will help families of active and retired Presbyterian Church workers who have unexpected financial needs. The other half will help support Presbyterian-related minority schools and colleges. On Sunday, December 16, there will be a Christmas Joy Offering envelope in each bulletin. We will receive the offering on Sunday, December 23. If you pay by check, please make it payable to FPC with Christmas Joy Offering on the memo line.

**Sunday, December 16, 2:00 – 5:00 PM**

**KOCHSMEIER OPEN HOUSE**  
**2347 Christmas Tree Drive**  
Drop by.

**Tuesday, December 24**

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**5:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

Celebrating the birth of Christ



Candlelight Service

## CIRCLES INITIATIVE DINNERS

### Sign up!

FPC provides the meal for this group the third Wednesday of each month (December 21). Needed are five main dishes and five salads, to be delivered to St. Peter's Episcopal Church no later than 5:30 PM on that day. Sign up on the Sunday before (December 18). See Dawn Berger.

## 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 of 3)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

## THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Grace Notes handbell choirs would like to thank everyone for the great support you have shown us over the last year. Your encouraging words have spurred us on, giving us the incentive to work harder to become the best we can be in praise of our Lord and Savior. We hope you will join us for our Christmas program in the sanctuary on December 11th at 7pm. This too we will do in praise of Jesus.

In His Service: *Eleanor Doyle, Dave Brees, Kit LeFevre, Vicki Pearson, Norma Summey, Lynne Weaver, Mary Bangert, Charlotte Fenlon, Faye Wheeler, Jane Hancock, Mary Lou Pawley, Judyan Bolduc and Virginia Malmberg.*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

### ONE SERVICE AT 10:00AM

followed by the

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

for the purpose of

- receiving the budget set by the session
- electing elders, deacons, and nominating committee
- vote on the pastoral terms of call

### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Do you have a group ministry or help to spend the church's money? Church Officers, Group Leaders, Staff and other members of the congregation that are in ministry at First Presbyterian Church: we need a year-end report for the Annual Congregational Meeting Report.

Please allow time for us to assemble the report before the meeting on January 27th. E-mail sjhatchellfpc@gmail.com, bring them on a memory stick, or leave a hard copy in the office.

**REPORTS DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2012**

### KITCHEN TOWELS

If you have taken some home to wash them, please bring them back.

**OFFICE CLOSED** Tuesday & Wednesday, December 25 & 26, & Tuesday, January 1 for Christmas and New Years.

### SAVE THE DATE

2013 Zephyr Point work weekend.  
September 20-22, 2013

### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Carl Dahlen will teach 2 Samuel beginning January 16, 2013 at 9:00 AM.

**2013 Giving Envelopes** This is a reminder that if you have a contribution number between 1 and 100 you may pick up your new 2013 **PINK** envelopes mid-December in the Narthex. Some notes:

1. If you have had envelopes but do not want them in 2013, please notify Charlene at the church office as soon as possible. Your giving number will then change.
2. If you didn't have envelopes in 2012 but want them for 2013, please notify Charlene as soon as possible

**PLEASE DISCARD YOUR 2012 CANARY ENVELOPES**

**Year End Giving** We are so grateful for your generous hearts in giving to the mission of First Presbyterian Church in 2012. It has been a blessed year.

We would like to remind you that if you are giving in December and want your donation to be credited for 2012, your gift must be in the church office by the morning of **Sunday, December 30<sup>st</sup> or postmarked December 31, 2012.**

Thank you again for your gifts to this church.

### Congregational Giving-GENERAL BUDGET

|                | <u>Budget Need</u> | <u>Given</u>   | <u>Difference</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 18th      | \$ 8,887           | \$ 7,708       | \$ - 1,179        |
| Yr to Date     | 408,802            | 400,111        | - 8,691           |
| <u>Current</u> | <u>Income</u>      | <u>Expense</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
| YTD            | \$400,111          | \$388,541      | \$ + \$11,570     |

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU

**Other 2008-2012** Accumulative Gifts: Recycled cans \$16,143, Thank you Mike and Bonnie Martinkus, Pennies \$1,137, Copper \$737, Tommy Morgan CDs \$1,185, Save Mart and Raleys Cards, \$4,555 –KEEP SHOPPING

You may continue to use your current FPC Raleys Cards until the end of December. At that time or before you will need to apply for the new Raleys Card at the store or on line. We will have guide lines for you in the Narthex or at the Church office.



# **CHILI COOK-OFF**

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**5:00 pm Judging 6:00 pm Dinner**

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

**The Back 40**

**A Bluegrass Band**

## **HUGE RAFFLE**

**All Are Welcome To Attend**

**Childcare Available**

**Soup is a Serving Alternative**

**Look for Chili Contest Sign Up Soon**





**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of North Division & West King Streets**  
**Administration Office**  
**306 West Musser Street**  
**Carson City, NV 89703**

## **THE TRUMPET**

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**First Presbyterian Church**

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775-882-1032  
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### **Pastors**

The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier  
The Rev. Dan Aument  
The Rev. Pat Hardy  
Pastoral Counselor

### **Worship Services**

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

### **Webpage**

[www.fpc Carson City.org](http://www.fpc Carson City.org)

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin  
articles can be sent to:  
[sjhatchellfpc@gmail.com](mailto:sjhatchellfpc@gmail.com).  
Articles may be edited to fit  
space. Trumpet mailing led by  
Bette Denning.

## **DECEMBER/JANUARY** **SCRIPTURES & SERMON TITLES**

December 2: First Sunday in Advent -- "Out on a Limb" – Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 9: Second Sunday in Advent -- One Service – 10 AM  
Children's Christmas Pageant – "Refiner's Fire" Malachi 3:1-4

December 16 : Third Sunday in Advent -- "Real Joy, Real Peace" --  
Philippians 4:4-7

December 23: Fourth Sunday in Advent – "Out of Nowhere" Micah 5:2-5

December 24: Christmas Eve – "Don't Be Afraid" Luke 2:1-20 – 5:00 and 7:00 PM  
Candlelight services

December 30: "One Size Fits All" – Colossians 3:12-17

January 6: "Home by Another Way" – Matthew 2:1-12

January 13: "Ransomed by Grace" – Isaiah 43:1-7

January 20 : "Measuring God's Love" – Psalm 36:5-10

January 27 : "Surprised" – Luke 4:14-21