From the Pastor's Workshop

## "Remembering and Giving Thanks"

As you receive this we walk together into the holiest time of the year remembering the most essential week that has or ever will happen in human history. Before we go any further, take a couple minutes to stop and consider this, right now, just stop. Think about Thursday night, when Jesus washed our feet. Think about what happened the next day on Friday on a hill outside of Jerusalem. Think about the long hours until Sunday. And then think about Sunday! Think about what it all means; right now, stop and think about it.

Now, having done this, keep doing it all month, all lifelong. Because as we stop every day to remember what this holy week is about we find the meaning of life. When we stop and give thanks that the creator of all things would come to find us and define our need and then meet it with the gift of his love poured out through the life of his own Son, all the trivia and all the chaos and all that stresses and makes us anxious are swallowed up. What is more essential than this?

And yet we don't let this happen. We get caught up in "this and that". And until something really stops us in our tracks we think we are OK. But OK isn't enough. We need more. God knows this. And so he comes to us as Emmanuel – God with us, and invites us to remember and give thanks that HIS LOVE is the something more that saves us from OK or less. This is the wonder of God's love in Jesus Christ.

But we live in a world that doesn't know about this because it has been led to seek less. We are invited to invite them to the ONE THING that makes ALL THINGS NEW; a living personal relationship with the God of the universe who has come looking for us all and gave his life for us in Jesus Christ to defeat our great enemy and fear, death itself.

I hope you will let this week, this month, this year be a time of remembering this. And then invite someone who has forgotten or never known to come experience this gift of all gifts. Because as we do this we remember and give thanks for the only life that matters; the life we could not find or make, but that God came and gave for free. There are so many ways to include people in this journey. Take a look throughout this Trumpet and you'll see. Remember and give thanks.

I thank God for the many ways you all reminded me of this during my recent illness. THANK YOU for the way you embodied the message of Jesus Christ by holding together and showing the world the strength of what it means to be one IN HIM.

Remembering and giving thanks with you in Christ,

#### Bruce

Welcome Mabel Jane Aument, born at 7:33 a.m., March 23rd, 9 lbs. 7 oz., 20 inches. Mabel joins parents Dan & Leslie and big sister Lucy. Congratulations to the Aument family!



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to be in charge of Coffee Fellowship for the month of May. This is a gift of service. You can be reimbursed for your expenses once approved by Sherri. Please see Sherri Chenin to sign-up or contact her at sherrichenin@gmail.com, or 775-230-0926.

**April 2015** 

## DISCIPLE-MAKING: YOU CAN TELL A TREE BY ITS FRUIT

In the third chapter of Matthew's gospel, John the Baptist sees some Pharisees coming to be baptized and challenges them to "bear fruits worthy of repentance." He gives them this grave warning: "Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Jesus echoes this idea in John 15: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." Of course, we bear fruit as disciples only as a result of the free gift of grace. However, the challenge still stands: we are called to be disciples who bear fruit.

What kinds of "fruit" can we expect to produce when we abide in Jesus? Theologian Alan Hirsch makes a great observation in *The Forgotten Ways* that we must be **disciples who make disciples** or else all our efforts are in vain:

C. S. Lewis rightly understood that the purpose of the church was to draw people to Christ and make them like Christ. He said that the church exists for no other purpose. "If the Church is not doing this, then all the cathedrals, clergy, mission, sermons, even the Bible, are a waste of time."

When dealing with discipleship, and the related capacity to generate authentic followers of Jesus, we are dealing with that single most crucial factor that will in the end determine the quality of the whole—if we fail at this point then we must fail at all the others. In fact if we fail here, it is unlikely that we will even get to doing any of the other elements of mDNA [Hirsch's term for our inherited calling to mission] in any significant and lasting way.

But even more significant, this is the very task into which Jesus focused his efforts and invested most of his time and energy, namely in the selection and development of that motley band of followers on whose trembling shoulders he lays the entire redemptive movement that would emerge from his death and resurrection. The founding of the whole Christian movement, the most significant religious movement in history, one that has extended itself through the ages, and into the twenty-first century, was initiated through the simple acts of Jesus investing his life and embedding his teachings in his followers and developing them into authentic disciples. (*The Forgotten Ways*, page 102 – emphasis mine)

If we want to take the Bible seriously, then we have to ask this question of ourselves: are we disciples who make disciples? Do we let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:18)?

These are really tough questions. It's tempting to make excuses: how can we *make* people into disciples if they are too stubborn or distracted? Of course, only the Holy Spirit has the power to change hearts and imbue them with saving faith. But the challenge remains – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19a). Somehow – when we abide in Jesus, the true vine, fruit happens.

Our strategy must be founded by Jesus, sustained by Jesus, and always pointing to the power of Jesus. Jesus shared life with people, so we must share life with people. Jesus served and loved people, so that's how we want to do it. Jesus gave up his life to save people, so each day we seek to give up our lives for the sake of others. When we trust Jesus at each step, we can also trust Jesus with the results. "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Here's my specific challenge for you: spend some time over coffee or a meal with another believer and ask each other about how God is calling you both to make disciples. Don't forget about grace. After all, bearing fruit is the *result* of God's redemptive power in our lives, not our way of earning his favor. If you try out this challenge, give me a call (775-400-0998) or send me an email (dan@fpccarsoncity.org) and tell me how it went. God has amazing things he wants to do through us!

#### Dan



#### THE KING'S KIDS: APRIL



...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

#### The hearts of our children ---

Bible Presentation Day: Excitement filled the air as we thumbed through our Bibles, learning how it's put together and how to use it! What a joy to see our kids be EXCITED about GOD'S WORD!







#### KING'S KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Experiencing God and His Word in a community of friends!

April 5: "HE'S ALIVE!" (Jesus rises from the dead as our victorious Savior)

April 12: "Something Odd Along the Road" (Jesus appears to two friends on the road to Emmaus)

April 19: "He's Here! (Jesus appears to His friends & talks with Thomas)

April 26: "Galilee Beach Breakfast" (Jesus meets His friends on the Galilee shore)

#### **BIBLE VERSE for APRIL**

Grades 1 through 5:

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God." I John 3:1

4 and 5 year olds:

God loves us and calls us His children!

#### **SAVE THESE DATES!!!!**

#### **SUMMER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (Sundays) – "FAITH-FINDERS":**

Summer will be here before we know it, and we need YOU to lead our kids in the search for Faith-In-Action! You can choose your Sunday in June, July or August. (Lessons are very user-friendly!) See Nancy.

#### JUNE 22-26 (evenings): F.B.I. (Faith-Building Investigations) - VBX 2015

Needed: Do you know a Christian magician/illusionist for our mid-week special?

Needed: 3 "fancy" (empty!) perfume bottles; "lab equipment"

Watch for other "needs" as we get closer to our fun event!



#### **NEW LIFE-**

As I write this, I am marveling at the presence of new life. My daughter, Lauren and her husband Don have welcomed their second baby into the family. I had the privilege of serving them this last week in their household, as well as the joy of getting to know my newest grandson and reconnecting with my 3 1/2 year old grandson. As we move further into spring and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we see new life everywhere. Flowers blooming, trees leafing, babies (both animal, bird, and human) being born. We are reminded of the renewal of the earth and somehow, it renews our hope for the future. Jesus came to give us a more lasting version of the new life we see around us. He came to rescue us from ourselves and the fallenness of creation.

One such reminder of this, musically, is the gospel song, *He Lives*, written by Alfred H. Ackley (1887-1960). The writing of this song flowed directly out of an evangelistic meeting being conducted by Dr. Ackley, who had graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary and been ordained to the Presbyterian ministry. One day he had a young Jewish student who had been attending his meetings challenge him with this question: "Why should I worship a dead Jew?" Dr. Ackley's answer that "He lives! I tell you, He is not dead, but lives here and now!" and his subsequent assertions and sermon of the same title, helped win the young man to Christ. This in turn flowered into a song that came quickly to the evangelist. The words to the 2nd verse talk about the writer seeing Jesus's loving care all around him in the world. "I know that He is leading thru all the stormy blast, the day of His appearing will come at last." The last line of the hymn states: "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart!" Dr. Ackley is known to have penned over 1,000 gospel songs and hymns.

Another well-loved gospel song was written out of concern for the way the world was disintegrating. Gloria Gaither was expecting her third child in the late 1960's when so much unrest and difficulty was happening in our country. One evening, lamenting the illness of her husband Bill, and worrying about many attacks that had happened on their ministry as well as the upheaval in our country and the drug culture that was so prevalent, Gloria grew increasingly panicked that she was bringing another child into this world with so much going on. But God suddenly brought her peace and calm as she was assured that the future would be fine, left in His hands. The peace and calm she experienced could not be explained --truly of God, beyond the understanding of humans. She and Bill wrote the song, Because He Lives, one of the most beloved songs of all time. As the Gaither's wrote, they said that the Holy Spirit's presence was apparent. Gloria later remembered that "life was conquering death in the regularity of my day". Joy overcame her fear and took precedence over her troubling circumstance. Later, Gloria wrote a book called Fully Alive, in which she recalled a paving project in their office parking lot that became further confirmation that life conquers death. The project occurred in the fall. Very early the following spring her father-in-law came into their offices and beckoned them to come look at something. In the parking lot, which had so meticulously been prepared and paved over the previous fall, a shoot was rising through the asphalt. A bright green reminder that life wins! Gloria remembers that she and Bill "couldn't help thinking of the song we had just written after our own personal bout with darkness".

These two gospel hymns are reminders of God's new life for us. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8 that, " 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies." That's why it's so important to tell of the Savior's resurrection. We can have His strength to overcome the things that make us fearful in life, because Jesus lives, every single day, in our hearts. And we can have full assurance we all, including both my grandsons, can face tomorrow!

Joyfully, *Karen* 

DESERT SCHOONERS WILL MEET on Tuesday, April 21 at 11:30 in the Family Life Center. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided by the membership. After a short meeting, the Bell Choir will perform their Spring Concert for us in the Sanctuary. Hope you will join us. For more information call Sandy Ehresman 775-885-8230 or Norma Summey 775-267-1917.

#### ZEE PEE DEE DOO DAH!

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex now for the Spring Mission Workday at Zee Pee, Zephyr Point Conference Center. The date is Saturday, May 9th. If you have the gift (or desire) of painting, carpentry, gardening, electricity, wood splitting/stacking or needle raking, we can use you. Zee Pee, Zephyr Point, will provide lunch at noon, and we will provide coffee and doughnuts starting at 7:30 a.m. Work will begin at 8:00 a.m. provided we are organized. What better way to celebrate God's greatness than by spending a sunny day at Lake Tahoe. Please sign-up now!



Has your doctor recommended you getting exercise? Have you been putting it off not wanting to spend the time or money? Join us here in the Family Life Center every

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. for an hour of gentle exercise that stimulates every muscle in your body. There is no cost and it is such fun and good fellowship!

Please enter the small door on the Division Street side.

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING-GENERAL BUDGET
--------------------------------------

Given	Difference	
\$124,188	-\$13,605	
Expense	Difference	
\$113,875	+\$10,313	
Given	Difference	
\$10,625	-\$1,275	
	\$124,188 Expense \$113,875 Given	

Thank you for your great response to our Per capita campaign, 30 Hour Famine, \$3,000 and the Belize mission trip, \$5,060.

#### THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Harry Krupp is having a moving sale. The items are listed below. If interested, please give Harry a call at 775-721-8147

- •RBI Hawk scroll saw w/stand. Model 220VS—\$100
- •Stihl string gas trimmer, model FS36Z—\$25
- •Black & Decker "Edge Hog" 2-in-1 landscape edger w/extra blade—\$25
- •Belt sander & drill press —\$15 each
- Craftsman gas edger—\$50
- •Snapper snow blower, 24" scoop, 11 horsepower, nearly new—\$500
- •Light oak bar stools w/carved backs—\$25 each
- •Oak, 2 piece, corner desk w/storage—\$150
- •Sofa, 8 ft.. Pale blue, white & beige on cherry wood frame—\$150
- •Four (4) Hummel plates from Danbury Mint, The Little Companions Series—\$10 each
  - "Apple Tree Boy & Girl"
  - "Country Cross Roads"
  - "Little Explorers"
  - "Stormy Weather"
- •Harley Davidson items—

Helmets, 1 small (red), 1 medium (black)—\$50 each

Leather jacket, large (black)—\$100

Chaps, medium (black)—\$25





Names omitted in online version for privacy.

#### ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 03-22-2015

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY**

To make our directory a great success we need volunteers. Cecelia and Bob Stansbury are coordinating the volunteers for our new directory. If you are interested in helping during our photo directory sign-ups, telephoning our members, or serving as a host or hostess during the actual photography sessions, contact Cecelia at 925-200-4360 (cell), 775-297-2866 (home) or call the church office at 775-882-1032.

# April Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

#### LIFETOUCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with



faces? Help is on the way! We are producing a pictorial family album! There is no cost to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating. Family pets are allowed to be photographed with you. Your images may be viewed electronically immediately. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. Sign-up April 5, 12 or 19 in the narthex. or visit our website at fpccarsoncity.org to schedule your own appointment. We look forward to seeing you.

Photo dates April 29 and 30, May 14, 15 and 16.



# At First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

#### Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae and Potluck Soup Supper - April 2

We will begin the evening with a potluck soup supper at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Bruce will lead us in worship at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a pot of soup and/or bread to share between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. Or just come be our guest!

Join us for an open invitation to the Lord's Supper followed by the Service of Tenebrae which marks Christ's time in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he prayed and prepared to go to the Cross. At the close of the service, the pastors gradually extinguish candles while reading passages from the Gospels, and the service ends in darkness and silence.

#### Good Friday – April 3

We will be showing two movies; *Jesus of Nazareth* at 4:30 p.m.—Great for families and *The Passion of the Christ* at 7:00 p.m. The *Passion of the Christ* is for adults.

Good Friday is a powerful part of Holy Week and Easter. How can we appreciate the significance of the empty tomb if we have not first witnessed our Lord on the cross, suffering in our place? "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Moreover, Good Friday gives us an opportunity to experience a part of the gospel story in a new and different format. Please join us to watch the Easter story unfold this Good Friday.

#### Easter Sunday - April 5

Join us to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus! Two services are offered. Our contemporary service begins at 9:00 a.m. and our traditional service at 10:45 a.m.

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." ~ Matthew 28:5b-6





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Easter 8:30 AM NURSERY  9:00 AM & 10:45 AM Worship  9:00 AM Kings's Kids Bible Experience 9:00 AM Sunday School - Adult 4:30 PM MS Youth Group 5:30 PM HS Youth Group	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM DEACONS 6:45 PM Praise Team	6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Library 9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite 1:00 PM Staff	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 9:00 AM Grace Notes 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM PRAYER 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	9 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station 1:30 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	11
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# Carson City Churches Coming Together to Serve the Community in Christ's Love, Spreading the Good News of God's Grace.

#### Friday, May 15, Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 2015

Ten churches in Carson City are participating in GraceWorks this year, exhibiting Christ's love by working together outside the church walls, to serve the community. The following organizations will be involved: First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Fountainhead Foursquare Church, Salvation Army, Calvary Chapel Carson City, Ministerio una Puerta al Camino (The Church of the Door to the Way), Capital Christian Center, First Christian Church, Hilltop Community Church, Good Shepherd Wesleyan Church, the Carson City Tigersharks Swim Team, the Kiwanis Club of Carson City and the Kiwanis Club of Sierra Nevada.

<u>Location:</u> Meet Saturday and Sunday at 8 AM at Mills Park, Pavilions B & C for prayer, worship, a pancake breakfast provided by the two Kiwanis Clubs, pick up your lunch and depart for your project.

How to sign up: Sign up sheets will be available soon at all participating churches. Like last year, you can also sign up online at fpccarsoncity.org/graceworks-2015

#### RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS NEEDED! Church-wide Rummage Sale SATURDAY, APRIL 25, opens at 8 AM

- All participating churches are invited to donate items for the rummage sale, with proceeds going entirely to fund GraceWorks 2015 projects.
- To donate earlier than April 23 & 24, items may be delivered to the First Presbyterian Church 306 W. Musser St. (Contact Carol Wilson to open the doors 775-720-3198) or bring them to Fountainhead. Set-up and in-gathering April 23 and 24.

#### **2015 GRACEWORKS PROJECTS:**

Linear Park - cleanup

Five Assisted living and care facilities – worship Advocates to End Domestic Violence Do Drop In – gardening and irrigation system Fremont Elementary School - gardening F.I.S.H. – painting Stop Hunger Now – Packaging emergency meals Carson City Senior Citizens Center – plant flowers Children's Museum of Northern Nevada Ron Wood Family Resource Center Carson City Humane Society Nevada The Greenhouse Project Bordewich Elementary School Carson Rifle Range – clean up Carson River Park – clean up Deer Run Road Open Space – clean up Edmonds Sports Complex - painting Small Blessings Pre-School

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of North Division & West King Streets Administration Office 306 West Musser Street Carson City, NV 89703 Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Carson City, NV 89701 Permit Number 173

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#### THE TRUMPET

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115 N. Division St.

#### **OFFICE**

306 West Musser Street Carson City, NV 89703 775-882-1032 fax 775-882-8095

The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier bruce@fpccarsoncity.org
The Rev. Dan Aument dan@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

#### Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to dawn@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Bette Denning.

#### **April Sermons**

April 2, 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service "Obeying" John 13:1-20, 16:32-33

April 5: "Forever" John 20:1-18

April 12: "Learning" Luke 24:13-13-35

April 19: "Overflowing" Philippians 1:1-11

April 26: "Let It Be Known" Acts 4:5-12

See us and "Like" us on



