From the Pastor's Workshop

"The Missing Piece at Christmas"

It's Christmas time; Advent and I love it. I love it for not so obvious reasons, but for reasons that I think are at the heart of the Gospel. Advent means something is coming and Christmas is supposed to be a celebration, but many people don't feel like celebrating. And many in our post-Christian world don't understand what the Christmas celebration is about. The fact is that we celebrate Christmas at the darkest time of the year because that is when we need what Christmas is about, most. We need the Advent of Jesus in our darkest times when we have come to the end of our know-how because HE is the missing piece for the world's missing peace.

THIS is the reason God broke into the world in person; because the peace that is missing is a piece we can't find or make. The peace we need is God coming (Adventing!) to us and saying, "Here, here! I'm here and I am all you need." But we can miss this so easily. Ironically, many come to "the manger" on Christmas Eve but don't take the present home with them. The missing piece to the puzzle of life is laying in the manger for all of us, but to take him home? What does that mean? It means simply a life of discovery; a life of opening a gift we never knew we needed; never knew could be ours; never knew could be our missing peace.

Every one of us is called to the manger to behold Jesus. The question is; "Who will we see?" Do we see the Savior of the world; the one born to die and blot out sin; to bridge the chasm and fill the void that stands between us and the peace of God which passes understanding? This is who Jesus grew up to be, and told us he was and is. This is what his life and death and resurrection attest to. In this season we are invited to see the missing piece in the words of a Carol:

"And our eyes at last shall see Him Thro' His own redeeming love; For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above, and He leads His children on To the place where He is gone."

In these days we are invited to see Jesus and we are invited to come to the manger with hearts that need to behold his peace; and we are invited to bring others with us because nothing and no one and nowhere is going to give them what they need like this one solitary life.

I pray that we will all look through these pages for the various opportunities to "come to the manger." I pray we will be singing and pondering carols and their profound words. I pray that the peace of Christmas will come and find the dark places in lives everywhere and that we will be reading scripture and realizing we are shepherds who are to lead people to see the wondrous story of Jesus and His love.

May we rejoice in THIS peace,

Bruce



GATHERING FOR VISION

What's the big idea?

God has interrupted our lives and revealed to us the big picture of creation and redemption and our place in it. We confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and look to him for our meaning and purpose in this life. We live between the first Easter and the second coming of Jesus.

While we know (and are very glad that we know) top-level, "head knowledge" ideas like these, because of our sinful nature, we are always inclined to avoid actually applying them to our lives. We divide our attention between Jesus and other "gods" and settle for less than our amazing inheritance as the church. Romans 12:2 guides and inspires us: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

We desire to use this time of transition as an opportunity to take hold of the gospel anew for ourselves and our joint calling as First Presbyterian Church in Carson City. We pray that God will grant us wisdom and inspiration as we reflect on our ministry and community so that we may grow in faith and action. We want this for ourselves – but even more for the sake of those whom Christ intends to reach and save through us.

As Christians, we are called, equipped, and sent by God. We want to grow in wisdom and faith in each of those areas. We confess that we are tempted to rest on our laurels, to assume we know what faithfulness looks like, and to choose comfort over purpose. But God's Word calls us run in such a way that we might win a race (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

How is it going to work?

We'll start by hosting three **Gatherings for Vision** on **December 11th**, **January 8th**, **and January 22nd at 7pm** in the sanctuary. At those meetings, we'll talk about some big picture ideas about who Christ is, our mission, and our ecclesiology (theology of the church). Our goal is to whet our appetites for a larger journey of vision-casting. After the gathering phase, we'll form a covenanted Vision Team to continue the process over the next year.

Our Mission Statement calls us to go – making disciples, baptizing, and teaching. We want to develop a strategic plan to carry out those imperatives while placing all our trust in Jesus' promise to be there with us. We desire to create and carry out a plan that is comprehensive, compassionate, cooperative with the Holy Spirit, measurable, researched, and courageous. The Vision Team that develops this plan will be just as important. The Vision and the Team are two sides of the same coin.

Our church has a great opportunity to use our transition into a new denomination as a time for reflection and growth. We have affirmed our core values: Christ alone, Scripture alone, & Faith alone. Now let's make a wise and serious investment in our future by developing a vision and strategy for sustainable growth in discipleship and mission over the next five years.

We need everyone to consider joining this effort. There will never be a time when everyone has a ton of free time all at once! But we can't afford to put this off or to assume someone else will do it for us. We'll be as flexible and prudent with time as possible during the process. If you want to help our church become more effective in bringing people to Jesus, please pray about this and consider joining us!

Dan

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11



THE KING'S KIDS - DECEMBER



...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

KING'S KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE: Lessons from the JESUS Story



The Woman at the Well (Natalie Berger)



Nicodemus (Rex Baggett)



The Centurion told how Jesus healed his servant. (Darrin Berger)



KING'S KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE

As we adventure through the King's Book, we're looking at JESUS' life – His miracles, teaching & His great love for us!

December 7: "Angelic Messages" An angel brings Good News: Matthew 1; Luke 1

December 14: "It's About LOVE" King's Kids & Youth Pageant

December 21: "Our Savior is Born" The Whole Story: Luke 1,2, Matthew 1

December 28: "We Beheld Him" Simeon & Anna see Jesus: Luke 2

THIS MONTH'S VERSES

Memorize these verses, then watch for times when God brings a verse to mind for a practical application!

"Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me." John 14:6

"To YOU is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

ADVENT EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Sunday, December 7th: 2:00 – 4:30 Advent Workshop

A Make-It-Take-It workshop of Christmas crafts. Come enjoy your kids and grandkids as they make Christmas crafts and decorate cookies. We'll end the afternoon with pizza!



Saturday. December 13th: 9:00 a.m.

Pageant rehearsal for ALL King's Kids & Youth Actors

Sunday, December 14th: 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant: "It's About LOVE" (King's Kids and Youth)

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year?

Many years ago, when my children were small, I would turn myself inside out every Christmas season baking, making gifts, wrapping, mailing and generally getting crazy to make sure that our family and extended family had a good Christmas. Some years things went well, but more often than not, I ended up getting exhausted and achieved just the opposite of what I was trying to do. In Habakuk 2: 20 it says, "Let all the earth be silent before Him." I've realized as the years go by, that I don't spend nearly enough time in contemplation during the Christmas season and if I am not still, I will miss the opportunity to just be in God's presence because I am too busy. And when I'm too busy, I cannot be in awe of the Gift of Jesus.

There is an old carol that is sung during the Advent/Christmas season that talks about being still in the presence of God. "Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand." The words of Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence are associated with St. James the Less (Bishop of Jerusalem), and may have been written as early as 60 AD. and/or with St. Cyril of Jerusalem who was active in the 4th C. AD. Regardless, it was produced for use in the local church. The part we know as this hymn is also called the "Cherubic hymn" as it refers to angels hovering in the third and fourth verses. Gerald Moultrie translated the hymn's text from Greek in 1864. The tune is set to PICARDY, a French carol dating from the 17th C., a popular song of its day. The carol is often used at communion because of it's second verse (Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food), but paints a much broader view of the Nativity. It speaks, too, of quietly pondering with awe, the gift of God's Son.

A more recent entry into the Advent/Christmas music lexicon is Hope Was Born This Night. In it the lyric reads: "Out upon the snowy fields There's a silent peace that heals And it echoes the grace of our Savior's embrace Because hope was born this night". There is grace, peace and a chance for healing when we slow down enough to reflect. This song, written in 2010 by Ben McDonald and Dave Frey (Sidewalk Prophets), talks about the praise, joy and hope that is born in us when we focus on Christ as the main thing. The song details why we can have these things in the midst of our world. When Christ is known by us and we are known by Him, then the peace that passes understanding will settle into our core.

Or, as another well-know Christmas carol states: "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in." (O Little Town of Bethlehem) Even though the world demands we listen to it, and even though some of the things that we could be doing are good; let's reach for what is best for our souls: a slower tempo, and time for silent reflection on The Best Gift we could possibly receive this year.

Blessed Christmas,

Karen

The Women's Choir will rehearse on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 PM and Wednesday, December 3 at 8:00 PM (following Chancel Choir) in order to sing during both services on Sunday, December 7. We hope you will consider joining us as we bring our praises to the Lord!

DESERT SCHOONER'S will be holding their holiday potluck on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center. John Bullis will be presenting the program on old time radio in Reno. Hope you all can join us. If your last name begins with the following letter please bring:

- A G—Main Dish,
- H M—Dessert,
- N U—Salad, and
- V Z—Bread. Drinks or whatever.

Coffee and punch will be provided by the membership. For further information call Sandy Ehresman at 775-885-8230.

YEAR END GIVING

We are so grateful for your generous hearts in giving to the mission of First Presbyterian Church in 2014. It has been a blessed year.

We would like to remind you that if you are giving in December and would like your donation to be credited to calendar year 2014, your gift must be in the church offering by the morning of Sunday, December 28, 2014, or postmarked by December 31, 2014.

Thank you again for your gifts to this church.

ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION DUE

Do you lead a ministry group or help spend the church's money? In preparation for the Annual Report, church officers, group leaders, staff and other members of the congregation that serve at First Presbyterian Church will need to submit their year-end report. In order to allow sufficient time to assemble the Annual Report, we ask that your submission be received by Wednesday, December 31. Please *email* your report to dawn@fpccarsoncity.org. You may also deliver your information via a flash drive.

ATTENTION TRAVELERS AND ADDRESS MOVERS

Did you know that each month we mail you our Trumpet to keep you informed about the activities of the church? However when you leave the area for a period of time the Post Offices returns your newsletter to the church and we are required to pay for its return. At that time we take you off the mailing list until we are notified of your return. That notification sometimes doesn't happen and you are then missing out on the church news.

Please notify us before you depart as a "snowbird" or just for a few weeks or months away so that we can either forward your Trumpet to the new address or stop it for the time that you are away.

We would appreciate your help with this as you make your travel plans any time throughout the year. If you are moving it is also important to call the office or e-mail your change of address to char@fpccarsoncity.org.

2015 GIVING ENVELOPES

This is a reminder that if you have a contribution number between 1 and 100 you may pick up your new 2015 **GOLD** envelope mid-December in the narthex. Some notes:

- If you have had envelopes but do not want them in 2015, please notify Charlene Rodman at the church office as soon as possible. Your giving number will then change.
- If you did not have envelopes in 2014 but want them for 2015 please notify Charlene as soon as possible.

PLEASE DISCARD YOUR 2014 BLUE ENVELOPES.

ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 8, 2015 followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting



For the purpose of:

- · Receiving the budget set by session,
- Electing deacons, and,
- Vote of pastoral terms of call.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

CPR CLASS at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We would like to offer a new CPR class here at FPC after the first of the year.

We have a firefighter who will teach the class on site if we have eight or more interested people. The cost for the class is \$45.00 per person. If you would like to enroll in the class please call Deana Ercanbrack at 775-782-8752 as soon as possible as we will close the class at a maximum of sixteen people.



9:00 A.M. Sanctuary & Church Building

Come and join us in decorating our church for the Christmas season. We are looking forward to a great turnout! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Pawley at 775-461-0061.

FAITH GUIDES

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me.—Psalm 43.3

Since the 1930s **Christmas Joy Offering** has provided assistance for those who have

dedicated their lives to the service of the church and supported leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethic schools and colleges. Follow the tradition of the wise



men, and give this Advent season.

On Sunday, December 14, there will be a Christmas Joy Offering envelope in each bulletin. We will receive the offering on Sunday, December 21. If you pay by check, please make it payable to FPC with **Christmas Joy Offering** on the memo line.

Order Your 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 \$10.00 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 service.
Deacons may deliver plant to someone.
Number of plants ordered (limit of 3).
\$ Amount enclosed

GRACE NOTES RING and SING

There will be a worship concert of hand-bell music interspersed with Christmas carols sung by the congregation.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

Come at 5:30 p.m. for an all church POTLUCK dinner

Last Name ending:

A-G bring an Dessert,

H-O bring a Salad, and

P-Z bring a Entrée.

Then Stay for Ring and Sing at 7:00 p.m.

Come sing Christmas carols and listen to the Grace Notes hand-bell choir

Come and enjoy!

WOMEN'S THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Bible Study and Annual Potluck

DECEMBER 11, 11:30 A.M.

In December, the women's Thursday afternoon Bible study will not meet at the church, but will



be holding their annual potluck at Sandy Ehresman's house at 1612 North Nevada Street. The potluck will begin at 11:30 a.m. Sandy will provide the soup. If you

would like to bring cookies or a salad to share please feel free to do so. Bible study will begin after lunch with lesson 4 "The Unforgiving Servant", Matthew 18.21-35. For information, please call Charlotte Fenlon at 775-885-8894.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 5:00 & 7:00 P.M.

Celebrating the birth of Christ



Candlelight Service



Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 11-16-2014

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015 TRUMPET DEADLINE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Have something interesting to share?

Please send your articles to Dawn Berger:

dawn@fpccarsoncity.org



Names omitted in online version for privacy.

The Church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, December 25 – 26 and Thursday, January 1, 2015.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please join us in welcoming our new members. They are: Patricia Angel, Sandra & Sal Arredondo, Keith Bopko, Mike Donaldson & Lynn Solano, Eleanor Doyle, Paul Johnson, Alan Jones, Jamesen & Megan Motley, Dennis Richardson, and Charlene Rodman.

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
,	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM DEACONS 7:00 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 7:00 PM Women's Choir	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 8:00 PM Women's Choir	6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens 2:00 PM Bob Whitney Memorial Service
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 AMNURSERY 9:00 AM & 10: 45 AM Worship 9:00 AM Kings's Kids Bible Experience 9:00 AM Sunday School - Adult 2:00 PM Advent Work shop 4:30 PM MS Youth Group 5:30 PM HS Youth Group	8 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:00 PM Basketball	6:30 AM WOMEN'S B BLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 6:30 AM WOMEN'S B BLE STUDY, Library 9:00 AM Grace Notes Life 1:00 PM Staff 6:00 PM MISSION COMMITTEE 7:00 PM ALL COMMITTEES	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	11 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station 11:30 AM Women's Potluck & Bible Study, Ehresman's House 7:00 PM Gathering for Vision, Sanctuary	12 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	the Church 13 9:00 AM Children's Pageant Rehearsal with Praise Team 2:00 PM Richard Poole Memorial Service
					Jan/Feb Trumpet Deadline	
3rd Sunday of Advert 9:00 AM Sunday S chool - Adult 9:30 AM NURSERY 10:00 AM One W ors hip Service - Children's Christmas Pageant 4:30 PM MS Youth Group 5:30 PM HS Youth Group 5:30 PM Ring & Sing Potluck, FLC 7:00 PM Grace Notes Ring &	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 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 5:30 PM SESSION	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 8:00 PM Praise Team Circles Dinners	18 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station	19 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	20
Sing, Sanctuary		Angel Tree	Gift Distribution			
21 4th Sunday of Advent 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	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:00 PM Basketball	23 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Library	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 11:30 AM PRAYER 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service Christmas Eve	25 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station	26 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	27
Elder/Deacon Installation				Mërry Christmas		
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	9:00 AM Exercise Lite	30 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Library	9:00 AM Exerc ise Lite 11:30 AM PRAYER Annual Report Information Due	Nov 2014 S M T W T 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 3 16 17 18 19 20 3 23 24 25 26 27 3 30	F S 1 7 8 4 5 6 14 15 11 12 1 21 22 18 19 26	nn 2015 W T F S 1 2 3 7 8 9 10 3 14 15 16 17 0 21 22 23 24 7 28 29 30 31

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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.

December Sermons

December 7—"God's Timing" 2 Peter 3:8-15a—Second Sunday in Advent

December 14—ONE service 10:00 AM Christmas Pageant—Third Sunday in Advent

December 21—"According to YOUR Word" Luke 1:26-38—Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 and 7:00 PM "The Answer" Luke 2

December 28—"When it Seemed Impossible" Isaiah 61:10-62:3

See us and "Like" us on



