



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 53 No. 06

August 2016

From the Pastor's Workshop

"PAVING THE WAY"

After Pentecost the first followers of Jesus came to be known as followers of "The Way". This is rooted in Jesus' telling the disciples, "I am *the way*". It speaks of the way of salvation; the path to the new life of belonging to God in Christ Jesus. I find it very important that Jesus referred to himself with the definite article, **THE way**. It is what I have called, "exclusively inclusive"; that is, only Jesus could say this, but he said it so that the *whole world* could know *the way* of salvation that comes from him alone.

The reason I think this is vitally important is that we are living in a very ambiguous time in which every way is to be tolerated as correct and equally valuable. "Far be it for one dogma to run over someone else's karma" or so the saying goes. But what if not all ways are hopeful? What if a way of thinking does not include or even purposely excludes *the way* of Jesus Christ? Jesus did not give himself for *the world* so that all ambiguous ways could be regarded as the same value. He gave himself *to pave the way* into right relationship with God for eternity.

If we are going to follow Jesus we are going to be people who pave the way for others to know this exclusive inclusivity. And the way this happens is when we can make knowing Jesus Christ personally something that provides a passageway for others to know this for themselves. We are part of something God started before there was time. He paved the way over the rubble of our disobedience and ignorance of himself by coming in person and laying down his life so that we may know God's grace. Leading people to this way and pavement is the purpose of our being Jesus' followers. Each of us is part of the "road crew."

I think it is a fun honor to be part of *the way* that started doing this paving in Nevada at the very beginning. For over 150 years people have been led onto the path of knowing Jesus as Lord in this place. People have paved the way for us. They marked the path. They did the hard work that said, "This way". They lovingly marked the dead ends and showed us from their experience what doesn't work on the way home.

There is a very practical side to this. It is the gathering together again and again and again and again such that a groove is worn on the path to the cross of surrender. It shows people the way home.

We are in a season in which we have been called to make the way clear in a very literal fashion. The walkway on our lawn is in disrepair. The part that is covered is worn out. We don't have adequate lighting. It isn't safe. And perhaps most of all, the cross isn't clear. We get to change this as God calls us to pave the way so that people who live in or visit Carson City can see the compelling call to come and know Jesus and HIS WAY.

This will happen as WE ALL play our part in rebuilding this space and lifting high the message of the cross. If you can provide some literal paving material that is wonderful, but equally and perhaps more important is your enthusiasm for what God has called us to do so that people know the way into this place and in turn into a new life in Jesus.

Please join me in praying for how God would lead us as his people in leading others on to the way as together we join in paving the way.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Bruce



"A PRESCRIPTION FOR WELCOMING PEOPLE"

The Walkway Project has been an exciting and inspirational moments of consideration to the members of the Buildings and Grounds committee and presents multiple benefits of improved access, prominence and safety to the First Presbyterian Church. Its concepts and functions have been a transition of much input and deliberation.

First and foremost to any body of persons is safety in consideration of the congregation and the public that visit our building. Longstanding has been the issue of the walkway adjacent to the east side of the education building. The surface of the sidewalk creates some liability wherein "trip hazards" exist. The concern of this situation and its needed improvement was expressed by insurance reviewers, and precipitated dialog which has resulted in plans for enhancement to this area of the property.

Acknowledged also, is the issue of inclement weather which renders the walkway unusable and potentially dangerous requiring attention of maintenance. Snow and ice accumulates on this shaded side of the building with quantities falling from the roof of the building. The practicality and safety of a covered walkway stimulated dialog determining how the design would enhance the building while safely providing access to doors leading into the sanctuary.

The opportunity for enhancement to this side of the building emerged. The overall prominence of a covered and lighted walkway creates an inviting physical environment to draw visitors and members into the church in our calling and duty to make disciples of all people. The architectural and concept designs have been the hard work of elder Darrin Berger.

The cross currently attached to the wall will have more significance, being extended out and above the roof covering and above the semi-circular portion of the walkway. The enhanced walkway with inscribed pavers and circular area created much discussion on how this area might otherwise be utilized for outdoor gatherings and social events.

Your support of the walkway project will genuinely improve the church building, its appearance, prominence and its function as it demonstrates to the community a growing family of faith providing a sanctuary for communion with God.

How can you help? This project will not begin until we have \$42,500 pledged. Total project cost is approximately \$85,000. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office. Please contact elders Keith Macdonald, 775-882-7860 or Darrin Berger, 775-882-6455 for questions.



THE KING'S KIDS: AUGUST



...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

CANDY KINGDOM: 30 kids, 13 youth and 18 adults experienced the sweetness of Jesus' love during our week!

We savored Jesus' love as we looked at five "I AM" statements that Jesus made about Himself:

At the Gingerbread Cottage: "I am the Bread of Life"; at the Lollipop Garden: "I am the Vine"; at the Chocolate Patch: "I am the Way, Truth and Life"; at the Peppermint Forest: "I am the Good Shepherd"; at Jellybean Beach:

Our mission project was for First Love Kenya. The kids raised over \$300 to help the kids build a special garden area for kids and staff to spend quiet time with Jesus. So, with the congregation's help, we sent \$885 to First Love! THANKS to all who helped decorate, who led the Sites, who served ice cream, who helped with take-down, and **especially to all who PRAYED for us during the week!** "It takes a church!"



KING'S KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE

A BIG THANKS to our faithful leaders from the past school year:

Mary Berge, Darrin & Natalie Berger, Deana Ercanbrack, Ron & Sigrid Hobbs, Lynne Morton, Gena Plummer.

DIRTY WINDOWS -

I have some windows that need cleaning. I can barely see beyond them. I cleaned them about 4 months ago, but they need cleaning again. I have attitudes that need changing as well. I can barely see beyond myself and my needs sometimes, and yet as a Christian, I am called to lift up others ahead of myself.

From the book of Luke: (Jesus speaking)

23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (NIV)

As a nation, our focus is clouded - just like those dirty windows and attitudes I have. We get too narrowly focused on all our problems, when we need to look beyond and be focused on Jesus. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord", say both Psalm 33 and 144. If we will humble ourselves and pray, God promises to bless us. And even if it is not a material blessing, we are blessed to be of and with God and He with us. We need to be very conscious of how we approach others -- as messengers of God's Kingdom -- we need to love others. What if we are the only Jesus encounter someone ever has?

We sing "God Bless America", when it's each individual American that needs to turn towards God and bless Him. We need to be about God's work in the world in order to solve the huge problems this nation and the world faces. Every man, woman and child needs to humble his/her heart and seek the Lord.

God will bring revival to this nation as His will dictates, but only if we turn to Him and don't try to fix things on our own. Will you turn with me toward Jesus and pray for revival in this nation? The fragrance of Jesus will waft from us and people will wonder what it is we have that they don't. Then we will be able to show them God's love. Maybe we need to work together for God's glory as we help wash each other's windows so we can all see clearly.

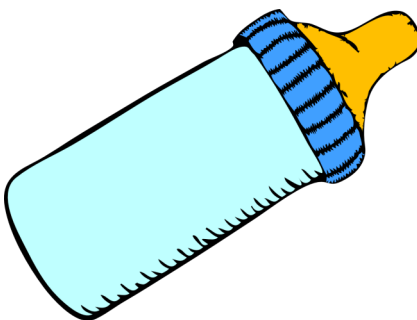
Joyfully with bucket in hand,

Karen



LIFE CHOICES COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CLINIC BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

Our partnership with Life Choices Community Pregnancy Clinics "Change for Life Campaign" totaled \$1052.65.



On behalf of their Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers they would like to extend their thanks for your partnership and donations. Together we become the hands and feet of Jesus to women, families and babies in our communities.

May God bless you as you continue to shine the light of Jesus in our community!

"CHRISTIAN FAITH AND POLITICAL DECISIONS"

The life of Jesus has a real meaning for us as we prepare for the election on Tuesday. We are all faced with a concrete and specific decision. We shall cast our ballot for a man [sic] who we think ought to be president of the United States. . . . In short, we shall have to translate our Christian faith into specific deeds on Tuesday. . . .

None of us is likely to find this a very simple responsibility. It would be very simple if one candidate appeared wholly corrupt and the record of his party wholly evil, if we had adequate and accurate information, and if the issues involved were not complex. . . .

As Jesus told the man to take heed and beware of covetousness, so he says to us on Tuesday, "Take heed and beware." The church does not tell us how to vote, but it does tell us to take heed and beware of the motives that lie behind our votes. . . .

[1] Take heed and beware of covetousness. . . . The Christian . . . has an advantage of being aware of this temptation. A Christian can at least take heed. A Christian can at least criticize a ballot in the light of what Jesus Christ has said. A Christian at least knows that the vote ought to be determined by something more important than personal gain. . . . Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us that Christians are distinguished in political decisions by contrition and a capacity for self-criticism, not by any infallibility. . . .

Material prosperity will damn us in the long run if it is bought at the price of human blood and suffering. An abundance of money in our pockets will curse us if gotten by the oppression or neglect of our fellow man. Special privilege will wreak vengeance upon us if it is based upon injustice.

[2] Jesus might have said, "Take heed. Beware of a political partisanship that goes deeper than Christian faith." The real question is not so much how we vote but whether our political loyalties go deeper than our loyalty to Christ. No Christian can ever be a reverent member of a political party or of any human organization, for reverence belongs only to God. Every Christian must be somewhat irreverent toward political parties and toward every human organization. Christians must not take such claims too seriously and must criticize a party by a deeper loyalty to Christ. . . .

The reverse side of this warning against a political partisanship that goes deeper than Christian faith is the positive task of criticizing our political action by faith . . . Our special task is to apply the teaching of Jesus to our decisions in politics and to the issues of the day. Our first allegiance is to Christ, and in the light of that allegiance we must act in the realm of politics.

The church does not tell us how to vote. It does insist that we vote in such a way that we can feel satisfied with ourselves when we read the Sermon on the Mount or the story of the Good Samaritan or the account of the last judgment. . . .

This very important fact distinguishes a Christian vote: The Christian decides how to vote in light of Christian faith, in the light of a loyalty that is deeper than politics. . . .

[3] Jesus might also say, "Take heed, and beware of political revivalism." We like to think of ourselves as rational people, but few if any of our decisions are made on the basis of reason alone. Politicians have taken advantage of this fact during the past few months. They have been lambasting the multitudes with threats of hell-fire and damnation. . . .

Political revivalism is more dangerous and deadly than religious revivalism. The religious revivalists appeal to fear of hell, which doesn't hurt the average person too much and in most cases may be definitely salutary. But political revivalism appeals to hate--to hate of other races, to hate of other classes, to hate of other nations. It creates suspicion and thrives upon it. Its method is one of reckless disregard for truth and of personal vilification.

[4] Jesus would also say, "Take heed and beware of arrogance." . . . We need to beware lest we lose respect for honest and intelligent people who differ with us politically. For this respect in one of the

bases of democracy and is an expression of Christian humility. This respect is an article both of our Christian and of our democratic faith that no single person is either good enough or wise enough to have all the answers. The honest and intelligent person who differs with us may possibly be right. . . .

True humility also means that we are repentant for our involvement in the sins of our nation and world. None of us has clean hands when it comes to corruption in government, to character assassination, to hate of fellow man, to war. These things would not exist if we, the people, were different. The notion that we are innocent in these matters is at best a pious fiction and at worse a pious fraud. Abraham Lincoln never took it for granted that God was on the side of his party or nation. W. H. Auden puts it this way: "All true democracy begins with free confession of our sins."

Political, social, and economic activities are--as Reinhold Niebuhr taught--always morally ambiguous. We do not have simple choices between good and evil. All political and economic activity involves us in evil as well as good. Hence the Christian must always pray for forgiveness

Jesus refused to involve himself in the details of political life in his day. Many were disappointed that he did not lead a campaign against Rome. His vocation was not the ordering of society. Ours is not the vocation of Jesus but the vocation of his followers who--as best as we can in the complicated and ambiguous issues of American life--seek to do what is possible for a more just, humane, and productive society.

The church does not dictate our vote. . . . The church does tell us that our vote must be cast as an expression of our faith. The vote must point in the direction of brotherhood, justice, peace, and a productive society. The vote must be against hate, injustice, any needless shedding of blood, and parasitical ways of life. . . .

Dr. John H. Leith, "Christian Faith and Political Decisions," preached at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn, Alabama, on November 2, 1952 [when he was thirty-three years old!]. In *Pilgrimage of a Presbyterian: Collected Shorter Writings*, edited by Charles E. Raynal (Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2001), pp. 26-31 (paragraph numbers added).



Grace and Peace,

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, Executive Director
Foundation for Reformed Theology

FRONT OFFICE HELP NEEDED!

Front office helpers answer the phone, take messages, or transfer calls to staff, greet those who come in for appointments or church business or food pantry needs. Do you have some time you could fill this volunteer position? It could be once a week or as needed. It's a great way to get to know church members. Please contact Charlene at the church office if you would like to learn more about these volunteer duties.

TRUMPET HELPERS NEEDED!

We are in need of some helpers with our Trumpet. We gather once a month, on a Monday, to label and fold the newsletter for mailing. It takes about 2 hours or less depending on folders. Please call Charlene at the church office 775-882-1032, x215 if you would be interested in helping with this volunteer position.



SEPTEMBER TRUMPET DEADLINE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12TH

Have something to share?
Please send articles to Dawn Berger:
dawn@fpccarsoncity.org

Women's Bible Studies

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We meet in the church library at 6:30 a.m. for fellowship, prayer and study. All are welcome. We are finishing up a study on the disciples and will be starting a study of the book of Acts in August. We hope you will join us!

Any questions, please contact Charlene Rodman at 775-882-1032, x215 or 775-781-7875.



BARISTAS NEEDED FOR "THE DOOR"

We are in need of baristas to run the coffee cart on Sundays before and after worship services. A training class will be held in August for those interested. Please contact Dan Luke at 775-0691-2122 or Charlene Rodman at 775-882-1032, x215, to express your interest.



DESERT SCHOONERS ANNUAL POTLUCK & BBQ

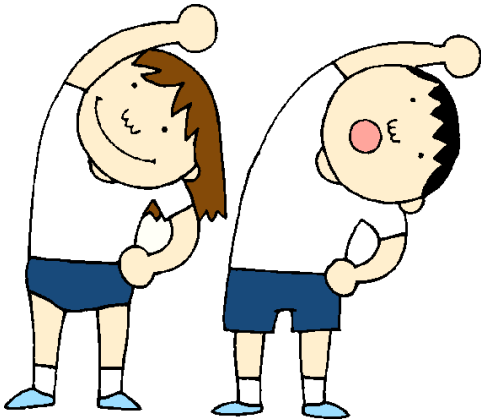
WHEN: August 6, 2016

WHERE: 973 Parkview Drive, Patio and Yard

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

Bring your choice of "meat" to grill and a side dish, salad or dessert, to share. Everyone is invited! For more information please call Norma Summey at 775-267-1917.

Food•Fun•Games•and Friends



EXERCISE LIGHT IS BACK!

Exercise Light will begin again this month. Please join us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.

If you have questions, please contact Marolyn Adams at 775-883-2838.

SAVE THE DATE—SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE

Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church will be holding a blood drive on Sunday, September 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They are located just South of Best Buy at 3680 U.S. Highway 395 South in Carson City .

Watch for further information in upcoming Sunday bulletins.



FPC ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The annual ice cream social was held on the front lawn of the church Saturday, July 16th. It was well attended and a great time was had by all. We enjoyed the music of the Capital City Community Band directed by Richard Doede. The Branson's and Sherri Chenin grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Many made homemade ice cream for judging. The winners of the ice cream contest were:

- 1st Place—Bob & Grace Speicher, Peanut Butter Flavor
- 2nd Place—George Branson, Chocolate Swirl Raspberry Flavor
- 3rd Place—Art & Helen Skipworth, Apricot Flavor

Congratulations to the winners!





Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 07-17-2016

Please pray for these families: Names omitted in online version for privacy.

Active Duty Names omitted in online version for privacy.

Please pray for family and friends.



Names omitted in online version for privacy.



RETURN TO TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

Please remember we return to two worship services, 9:00 & 10:45 a.m., September 25, 2016.

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
	1 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:30 PM DEACONS	2 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Library 7:00 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co.	3 7:00 AM Men's Study Group @ Joanie's Creekside Cafe 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM PRAYER	4 7:00 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Joanie's Creekside Cafe	5 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM Men's Berean Bible Study, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	6 11:30 AM Desert Schooners Picnic/Potluck @ Norma Summey's House																																																																																																									
	Youth Mission Trip - San Diego			Summer Impact Youth Event																																																																																																											
7 9:30 AM NURSERY 10:00 AM King's Kids Summer Bible Experience 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship, FLC	8 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 2:00 PM Meta Miller Memorial Service	9 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Library 7:00 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 6:00 PM MISSION COMMITTEE 7:00 PM ALL COMMITTEES	10 7:00 AM Men's Study Group @ Joanie's Creekside Cafe 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM PRAYER	11 7:00 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Joanie's Creekside Cafe Summer Impact Youth Event	12 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM Men's Berean Bible Study, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite Trumpet Deadline	13																																																																																																									
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THE TRUMPET

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Carson City, NV 89703
775-882-1032
fax 775-882-8095

The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier
bruce@fpccarsoncity.org

Summer Worship Service
10:00 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 and Linda Poole.

August Sermons

August 7: "The Healing Break" Luke 6:6-11

August 14: "With One Voice"

August 21: "Making it Plain" Luke 6:17-26

August 28: "Love Your Enemies?" Luke 6:27-36

See us and
"Like" us on

