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Vol. 55 No. 06

August 2018

From the Pastor's Workshop

#### "HABITS OF THE HEART"

Habits. We all have them. Some are just "how we roll". Others are ones we would probably (LIKELY!) be better off without. But as we continue to look to the next chapter God has for us as this part of Christ's body I think it is essential we ask ourselves why we do what we do. I call this "Habits of the Heart".

We often joke about "the seven deadly words of the Church" as being, "We've never done it that way before". It is good to goad ourselves on this because if we don't we are not likely to remember just why DO we do what we do in the way we do it.

As Presbyterians we have a heritage that leads us to understand our faith story from the Bible in which all the various pieces fit together with scripture interpreting scripture. We call this, "systematic theology". So, it's not just "we've always done it this way" but rather, "God's word does not change and the whole of his promise continues to fit together seamlessly." As I said in our sermon on Romans 12:1-2, our understanding of God's amazing plan for us is not based on fads or whims, but the bedrock of God's unchanging faithfulness. It is a faith built to last.

So what are the habits of our heart that shape us for God's glory? How do our spiritual patterns allow God's Holy Spirit to deepen our commitment to his commitment toward us? I want to suggest that these habits are ones that are based on classic devotion. What are we reading? ARE we reading? What music do we listen to? DO we listen to music? What conversations are we having? Do we talk with one another about who Jesus is in terms of how he is leading us in our daily living? Are we giving God the opportunity to lead us OUT of habits that take us away from living for him? Is this a time to let God cultivate and stretch us in developing new habits of the heart that are for his glory?

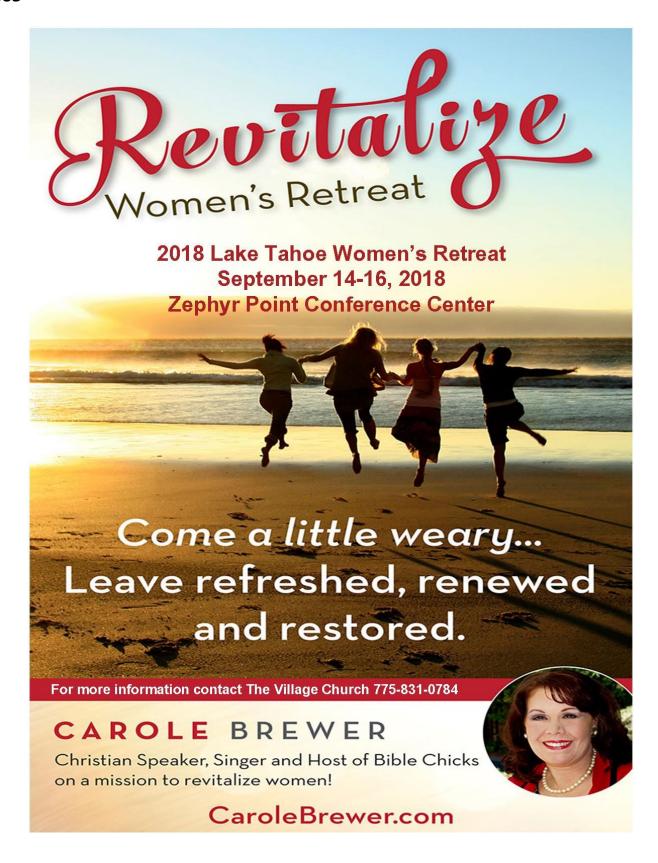
Recently I was talking to a new friend who said, "I gave up coffee". And I thought, "Oh this person needs serious help!" But my friend said, "I wasn't sleeping well anyway and I sensed Jesus was saying, 'Give up coffee'". I asked, "What were the headaches like?" My friend said, "That's when I knew it was Jesus calling. I never had any." Is it possible God is calling you and me to make some changes like this; ones that seem at least very meddlesome if not impossible? Habits of the heart are those God brings to us to replace that which we thought we could not live without. But we need to be open to trying the timeless.

How about you? What are your habits of the heart? What is God inviting you to start or return to with renewed commitment? For me it is the freedom and grace that come from the humility and gratitude that come from DAILY remembering God sees the light in me and removes my darkness because he loves me. I know there are areas of growth we all need in order to let God's grace grow us and make us new. And I know it is as we grow in these habits that God will be glorified; revealed to us and through us such that we will never want to return to living without our deepened life in Christ.

I look forward to building these new habits with you. Let's consider together the ways we can grow in belonging only to Jesus; the ONE who has made a habit of loving us.

Faithfully yours in Him,

Bruce





## THE KING'S KIDS



...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



#### **SUMMER BIBLE EXPERIENCE**







Our first activity was painting our cars.

They look really good!



Photos with the finished products!



Our Road Sign for the day was "Yield Right of Way". We talked about putting others first and said that the Bible has another word for this attitude: SACRIFICE.. As we watched the Disney movie "Cars 3", we saw examples of characters sacrificing for each other. Then we debriefed about how the GREATEST SACRIFICE was given to us by Jesus. Last, we had our own mini-car races. A great time was had by all!

#### JOINED, BLESSED, PEOPLE OF VICTORY -

As the summer wanes, I am amazed again at how quickly time passes. It seems like we just gave the choir the

summer off and now we're staring at the calendar and beginning our planning for fall programming. This month, the Praise Team will be off to rest their voices. We will have the Men's Chorus bring an offertory and a special duet as well.

The Men's Chorus (all you guys out there — this is a "one and done" shot deal, please join us!) will rehearse on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary, and present on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will participate. And the Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals for the fall season on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Come sing with us and bring your praise to the Lord!



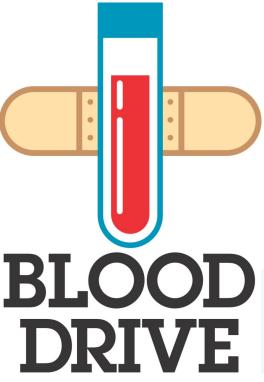
As I write this, we have welcomed a new grandson, and have another great-grandchild on the way! As many of you know, Levi Asher Caelan Waisanen was born on July 10<sup>th</sup>. His name means "joined", "blessed", "people of victory". The name "Caelan" is a nod to his recently deceased Scottish grandmother, CarolAnn.

We are "people of victory" when we allow ourselves to be "joined" with God's great plan of redemption. We are "blessed" when we let God shower us with His grace and mercy. He sent His Son to purify us through the cleansing blood of the crucifixion, and we are raised with Jesus through His resurrection. What a mystery — what a gift! Praise be to God for His unchangeable, cleansing love!

I hope you are having a good summer, but in whatever situation you find yourself, please know this: God is with you and knows exactly what you are experiencing and need.

Gratefully,

#### Karen



#### THANK YOU BLOOD DRIVE DONORS

Our first Blood Drive was a wonderful outreach and was a success. Thank you to all of our FPC family who responded by donating their blood and to four who came off the street when they saw our signs to donate. We were able to donate 18 units of blood which translates into saving 54 lives. This was a successful outreach in so many ways. Those who were not of our church family were invited to join us on Sunday and FPC newsletters and brochures were shared with them. Because this was a success we have been asked to do it again in two months. Thank you to Kyle Hamilton for having the vision for this new outreach project and thank you for those who stepped up to help in different ways. This included Charlene Rodman, Sharon Hughes, Jamie and Faye Wheeler, Dan and Pat Skinkis and we can't forget our wonderful entertainers Kit LeFevre and Wil Euler. Also thank you to Pastor Bruce who displayed his Harley at this event.

#### A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS!

Sonja Radig would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards and phone calls during her eye surgery. You were a real blessing!

# Upcoming Events & Happenings

# TIME CHANGE FOR DESERT SCHOONERS PICNIC/BBQ



Desert Schooners will have their annual summer Picnic/BBQ on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., at the home of Kathy Jones and Jim Kayden, 862 Meadow Vista Drive. Jim will BBQ chicken. If you'd like another type of meat please BYO. Also please bring a side dish or dessert to share as well as your own chair. Call Pat Beattie, 775-882-8727, to RSVP for the picnic.

# Reno ACES vs. Salt Lake Bees Faith & Family Night Friday, August 17th

We're planning a trip to watch the Reno Aces play the Salt Lake Bees at Greater Nevada Field on Friday, August 17th, first pitch at 7:05 p.m. Gates open at 6:05 p.m. It's Faith and Family night and there will be fantastic post-game fireworks too! We've reserved a block of tickets. Left Field Reserve tickets are \$16 per person. Last day to reserve and pay for tickets is Thursday, August 2nd.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

The next "Blood Drive" is scheduled September 19th, 3:00-7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Watch for further details in upcoming bulletins and the September newsletter.



#### Ice Cream Social Winners & Thanks



Due to weather, heat and smoky skies we moved the event indoors this year. It was a great time of fellowship and fun. Many thanks to all who helped organize, setup, cook, and clean-up. We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks to the Capital City Band too! We so enjoyed the concert.



#### ZEPHYR POINT ANNUAL WORK WEEKEND

Mark your calendars. Save the date! Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Plans are underway for a weekend of fun, fellowship, friendships, and fatigue!

Our work weekend at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center will be here before you know it. Great meals available, cabins provided, friendships created, and God's beauty all around.



More details and sign-ups coming as we get closer to the date.

#### KLDP Adventures while in Northern Nevada



306 West Musser Street; Carson City, NV 89703 775-882-1032 Fax 775-882-8095 www.fpccarsoncity.org **Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier, Pastor** – bruce@fpccarsoncity.org

June 4, 2018

Lyndsi Snyder Corporate Office 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 900 Irvine, CA 92612

Dear Lyndsi,

I recently had the joy of treating the Director, an advisor, and three graduate students of the Karen Leadership Development Program (KLDP) from Chiang Mai, Thailand, to a delicious lunch at In'n'Out Burger in Carson City, Nevada.

The Karen people live in the hills of Thailand - a subsistence life of poverty. Children are educated, but when they go to university in Chiang Mai, they find a world very different from where they were raised. People in the city look down on the students from the hill country, and these students feel that prejudice, as well as the fears and tensions of moving from simple hill life to city life. Many feel lost.

The Director of the KLDP was herself a university student in Chiang Mai and saw a need in these Karen students. She and two friends prayed that God would lead them, somehow, to help. And the KLDP was founded. Students in the KLDP live in a church facility outside Chiang Mai, attending university during the day and classes at KLDP in the evenings and weekends. The KLDP classes teach and encourage the students in their areas of need, emphasizing growth in their individual Christian journeys and Christian leadership in the community.

The reason for my letter, is to share with you the fun we had, and their description written about their visit to In'n'Out Burger: "Even from the mountains of Thailand, praises will be sung that these are the best burgers ever!" They loved hearing about the Christian values behind In'n'Out Burger and took photos of the verse references on the various food wrappers.



Pictured here (from left to right):

Plai (recent university graduate, studying for elementary teaching certificate); Keeki (Founder and Director of KLDP);

Chai (recent university graduate in health sciences);

Kookik (university graduate, studying for her biology teaching certificate); LuAnn (KLDP advisor)

Thank you for the delicious food and service!

May God continue to bless you!

Nancy Kochsmeier, Director of Kids' Ministry

Church Location: 115 North Division Street Carson City, NV 89703 Karen Dahlen, Director of Music Ministries – karen@fpccarsoncity.org Nancy Kochsmeier, Director of Children's Ministries – nancy@fpccarsoncity.org 13502 Hamburger Lane Baldwin Park, California 91706-5885 (626) 813-8200



The Best Enterprise
Is A Free Enterprise™

June 29, 2018

Nancy Kochsmeier First Presbyterian Church 306 W. Musser Street Carson City, NV 89703

Dear Nancy:

I am grateful that you took the time to write to me regarding your work with the students of the Karen Leadership Development Program and your group's visit to In-N-Out Burger in Carson City, NV. It moved me to hear about the plight these students face in their home country of Thailand. I am glad that our restaurant was the setting for your meaningful gathering and that the students enjoyed their burgers. We hope that they will visit again someday!

If you approve, I would love to publish some of the information that you shared in your letter in our company bulletin. It is a private newsletter that we send out to our employees. I feel that it would be impactful for them to hear the profound narrative that you kindly shared with me.

I pray that In-N-Out Burger restaurants can continue to serve future KDLP student groups. In the hopes that we can assist your mission, I have enclosed 10 Valued Guest Check cards that can each be redeemed for a full meal at any of our locations. I would love to hear from you again in the future about your experience, both in our stores and in your mission in general. Thank you again for writing to me.

Blessings.

Lynsi President



#### ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 07-22-2018

Names omitted in online version for privacy.



Names omitted in online version for privacy.





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









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#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier bruce@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services 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 5: "The Reason For Our Faith" – Romans 15:14-21

August 12: "In the Beginning" – John 1:1-5

August 19: "The Messenger" - John 1:6-8

August 26: "Received or Rejected?" – John 1:10-13



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