



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 51 No. 04

May 2014

From the Pastor's Workshop

Now Where?

Perhaps the most fun I had in ten years in the motorcycle business was racing in off-road timed endurance races in very remote places. One such place is Red Mountain, CA in the Mojave. It barely exists. Nancy and I tease Kate that we are moving there someday and she says, "Well then I guess YOU will be visiting ME."

The reason these events were so fun for me, (and I have to admit a little scary at some points) was because we were not allowed to preview the course in any way. We just had to follow the signs laid out along the way.

Our Christian journey is like this and particularly our journey now as we seek God's way to be most authentically his people. As much as we might like to know where we are going we are always having to learn to trust God for the signs along the way.

I am so grateful that we are going through this experience together because it is teaching us to ask, seek, knock, and pray for God's direction. In our off-road races there was the temptation to second guess the course and charge across the desert making up our own way. There are two problems with this: the desert is pocked with deserted mine shafts that drop away; (there was one rider nicknamed "Mineshaft") and two, if you took a short cut and got to where you were supposed to be ahead of schedule there was a greater penalty than being late! (And now you know why I run late!!!)

My point is that where we end up denominationally is not as critical as how we let God lead us there. We could miss this just like the two travelers on the road to Emmaus late on Easter ALMOST missed seeing Jesus. They were so distracted by their disappointment that they couldn't see Jesus. BUT, as he reminded them that God's promise was one that led THROUGH the valley, their hearts began to get fired up with a sense of, "Oh yeah". And then when Jesus broke the bread with them their eyes were opened and they were empowered to go out and tell the story of the risen Lord.

This is your story. This is my story. This is the greatest story ever told because this is God's story and we are learning to LIVE it as we watch the signs along the way. We may discover as we do that God leads us to a new place of expressing THE story, but it will be like the beloved hymn that says, "And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long."

So, where now? Where we have always been going, to tell the world about the gift of new life that comes only through Jesus. As we go may we not be distracted by not knowing the course ahead of time or by the temptation to take shortcuts, but may we delight that God will take us together exactly where we need to be.

Yours for the whole ride home in Christ,

Bruce

REBOOT

I confess I have a weakness for the classic Windows computer game, *Minesweeper*. In an expert game, a player must clear 381 safe spaces while avoiding 99 mines. The game is unforgiving; a single misstep sets off all the mines and results in a loss. One of the lessons I've learned from this silly, time-wasting game is that most of my avoidable losses happen when I make bad assumptions. I blow up when I think I know more than I actually do.

There are few things more dangerous than incorrect assumptions. Life is a constant process of gathering information and making decisions. When we make decisions based upon unchallenged assumptions, we risk stepping on mines. Sometimes we get lucky and our assumptions are correct; sometimes the mines appear where we didn't expect them.

The deadliest, scariest assumption of them all is that we are being faithful to Jesus when we are in fact serving some false idol (usually ourselves). Jesus warns us of this possibility in Matthew 7:21-23 – "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'" How can we avoid making this terrible assumption?

Computers are great tools, but they don't always work perfectly. Programs can misbehave and become unresponsive. The best first option for getting a computer to function properly is simple: turn it off and on again. Reboot. Rebooting works because computers operate by processing information held in their active memory (RAM). If the active memory is mishandled, errors can creep in and affect the end result. When you turn a computer off and on again, it jettisons the data held in the active memory (RAM) and pulls it afresh from the long-term memory storage (hard drive).

The life of faith can work the same way. As we go about our business on this earth, we make decisions based upon our understanding of our surroundings and God's will for our lives. Assumptions can creep in and jeopardize our faithfulness. We can reboot by confessing our lack of wisdom, jettisoning our self-righteousness, and returning to the one reliable source of information, God's Word. Time spent in seeking after God's will through prayer and study refreshes us, exposes our weakness and shortcomings, and re-reveals God's grace.

Life between the cross and the second coming is like life in a minefield. Our sinful nature gets us in trouble, but we have the Bible, the church, and God's Holy Spirit to guide us. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2a, NIV)

What kinds of dangerous assumptions threaten our relationship with Jesus? Personally, I know that I get in trouble whenever I try to serve Jesus "enough" (pray enough, worship enough, love my neighbors enough, etc.). Jesus doesn't want some portion of me. He wants all of me. I can never give God enough, but because of grace "enough" isn't the point anymore. I realize that I have let the mistaken belief of works-righteousness creep into my faith life. I don't serve Jesus because I have to earn his favor. I serve Jesus because he set me free and has given me the opportunity to live a life that actually means something. When I try to serve God "enough", I usually have some selfish plans for the time I have left over. What can I do apart from Jesus that could possibly be of any value?

Reboot. Let God's Word unmask your assumptions. It can be humbling to realize how we have not been faithful, but it is always worth it. "My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:11)

God is good,

Dan



THE KING'S KIDS – MAY



...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

- Kids experiencing Jesus and community as we walk through God's Story -



Samson shows his strength.



Delilah takes a bribe.



Samson knocks down walls of the pagan temple.



Palm Sunday

Lessons for May

May 4: "God's Messengers"
May 18: "The Kingdoms Fall"

May 11: "Beginning of the End"
May 25: "God Watches Over Daniel"

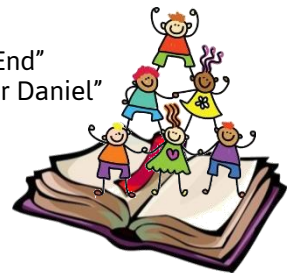
Bible Verse for May

Memorize this verse as a family and see how God uses it in your lives!

"Be alert. Stand firm in your faith.

Be courageous. Be strong. Let everything you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

MAY 11: Bible Presentation Day (3rd graders) & Royal Market
(King's Kids will shop for fun prizes with the coins they have earned.)

VBX 2014: "ARCTIC ADVENTURE" June 23-27 (evenings)
Needed: large "pillow" package bubbles (approx. 4"x6"); white bed-sheets
Watch for more requests, as plans are made.
What child in YOUR life needs to hear of God's love for them?



Decorating Nights: June 17 & 19 (6:00 – 8:30: just "drop in")

COME help us "build" our Arctic Region! No great artistic abilities are needed: come help cut and pin.

REGISTRATION begins JUNE 1 (\$10 per child / \$20 family maximum; scholarships available)

SUMMER SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

We need YOU to volunteer to teach ONE Sunday during the Summer, as we continue our walk through The Story. (Lessons are VERY leader-friendly!)
See Nancy at coffee-time, or give her a call, to sign up!

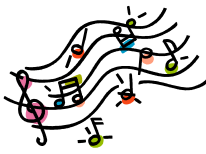


ZEPHYR POINT DAY CAMP (June 30 – August 15)

Register your kids at Zephyr Point's website. Scholarship money is available!
Let Nancy know which week you've chosen and we'll try to work out car-pooling.
<http://zephyrpoint.org/programs-home/youth-and-children-events/day-camp>



A Final Word on Worship (for now) -



This column has spent the last fourteen months exploring the subject of worship. While the subject matter will probably never be exhausted, because the process of worship is ever-changing, I have found the study quite eye-opening! It has been a pleasure and privilege to share some of the insights I've gained.

One of the things that calls me to confront my attitudes toward worship is the fact that worship (unlike virtually everything else we are told and encounter today), is not about me. In fact, how I approach worship should be with an attitude of "what will please You, Lord?" Constance Cherry in her book *The Worship Architect*, challenges those of us designing worship to include all who attend to be invited through various means to give of themselves wholly to the worship of God. By participating, we sing, confess, pray, proclaim the Word of God, affirm our faith, and are sent into the world, refreshed and renewed to do our servant work. The main thing, though is that we are not passive in the process of worship, but participate fully in conversation with God, because when it is all said and done, worship is about experiencing God.

Annie Dillard said in her book, *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters*, "Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke?" Ms. Dillard goes on to say that "it is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping God may wake some day and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return." We need to anticipate an encounter with God when we worship. We need to be like the small child on tip-toe, peeking over the window sill, searching out the window for Abba, but also, we need to be prepared to receive a never safe, but always just God.

When we worship we expose ourselves to the power of God without any personal control over the outcome.

It always moves us beyond the farthest point of our existence if we are abandoned to God. It challenges us, it stretches us and it will take us into uncharted territories if we will surrender ourselves to the living God. Worship is the place where confession, healing, peace, forgiveness, confrontation and hope can enter our lives, and we can receive God's love and grace. Once experienced -- there is no going back!

Moving forward with you,

Karen

COPIES OF "THE STORY" ARE AVAILABLE

We have ordered 20 additional copies of *The Story*. They are \$8.00 each and may be picked up at the church office.



DESERT SCHOONERS MAY EVENT

Come join the Desert Schooners for food, fun and fellowship on May 27 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Vern Krahn, who is the Park and Recreation Planner for Carson City. Vern will be sharing all the plans for the sesquicentennial activities at Fuji Park. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided by the members. For more information, please call Sandy Ehresman at 775-885-8230.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT ON KIVA

2,700 years ago during the time of the prophet Isaiah, the people were fasting. They fasted to call attention to their piety. They offered up fasting to the Lord instead of obedience; it made them irritable and they fought with one another. Isaiah recorded a response from the Lord to them, and for us, in Isaiah 58.

"No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people.

Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind."

The First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee oversees funds from you in the spirit of this passage. We do so in part through a wonderful non-profit Organization called Kiva (kiva.org). Through Kiva, our church makes small loans that create opportunities around the world. When a loan is repaid, the money is loaned out again. Thus far, we have loaned 54 times in 28 countries for many diverse business endeavors, such as: water distribution, commercial fishing, weaving, farm supplies and baking.

Please go to the narthex and look at your mission board... find the Kiva display. See for yourself the faces of those we help, and the countries they live in.

*One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord,
And He will repay him for his good deed. Proverbs 19:17*

God Bless,
First Presbyterian Church Mission Committee

THERE'S NO FREE LUNCH

Oh yes there is!

On Saturday, May 3rd, those who sign-up (and show-up) for a one day mission work party at Zephyr Point on beautiful Lake Tahoe, will enjoy an "all you can eat" lunch, courtesy of Zephyr Point Staff.

The sun will be shining as we celebrate one of God's beautiful works at the lake. Come, bring family and friends to work together. We have projects for all ages and stages, from muscular "hunks" to dainty "dolls".

If you are up for it, a late afternoon dip in the refreshing waters of Lake Tahoe will be available.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex

Questions? Please see or call Dave or Jan Brees at 775-883-0224



May Birthdays

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 04-20-2014

Names omitted in online version for privacy.



May Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

Messages may be sent to the Van Zee family at: Dr. Bruce Van Zee, 2668 Oakview Circle, Medford, OR 97504. You may also email Bruce at bvz@charter.net

THE NORMANDY TOUR planned for November 2014 has been postponed. Stay tuned for details.

NORMA SUMMEY would like to extend many thanks for all the prayers, thoughts, cards, visits, phone calls, flowers, and good food during her recent illness. God bless you all!

A NEW MEMBERS CLASS will be held Sunday, May, 4. The class will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the church library. Nursery will be available.

If you are interested in joining, please call the church office at 775-882-1032 to enroll in the class. New members will be received on May 11 at both services.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!



FPC will be attending the Reno Aces baseball game on Saturday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. George Branson will be taking ticket sign-ups in the near future. Watch for details.



YOUR

MISSION DOLLARS

AT WORK

SMALL BLESSINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL is now accepting enrollment for the fall 2014-15 school year. Classes for three-year-olds are offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Four-year-olds may attend either morning or afternoon sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Certified teachers offer a high quality, developmentally appropriate program in a loving and safe Christian environment. Experiences and activities are structured to enhance children's growth in all areas of development.

Tuesday/Thursday sessions cost \$100 per month per child.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday sessions are \$150 per month per child.

Limited scholarships are available by application. Small Blessings Christian Preschool is an outreach program of the First United Methodist Church in Carson City.

For further information, please call Dr. Susan Pintar, interim director at 775-884-1600.

BELIZE DENTAL MISSION giving to date is \$575.00 plus many supplies for the dental work that will be done while there. The mission team which includes our own Rob & Jenny Scanland left for Seine Bight, Belize on April 25. The mission team will return on May 4. Please keep them in your prayers! Thank you.

GRACEWORKS MISSION RUMMAGE SALE raised \$2,632.55 for the various community projects that will take place on June 7. A big thank you to all who donated items and to the individuals who worked the rummage sale!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING special offering collected \$913.00. These funds go to various causes such as the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. Thank you for your generosity.

YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN THE 30 HOUR FAMINE March 28-29. Through your donations they were able to raise \$2,006.00 which has been forwarded to World Vision. Each dollar raised will help feed and care for a child for a day.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Summer will be here soon. Our thoughts are on vacations - time to get away. So this is just a reminder that your church family will still be here when you return.

Please remember your giving for the summer months. These are the months that giving is down but our expenses continue.

We thank you for your faithfulness to First Presbyterian Church and its missions.

The Stewardship Committee

GRACEWORKS, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014



Grace Works

Meet at Ross Gold Park at 8:00 AM for prayer, instructions; pick up free lunch and send-off to work sites.

Register online www.fpccarsoncity.org

OR fill out the paper registration form, available in the narthex and the church office. The paper registration may be submitted to Troy Stansbury,(cell phone 925-918-3676). Troy will enter your information and give you your printed "ticket."

Participants from nine local churches and the Carson Tigersharks Swim Team are coming together to serve the community by working on numerous projects, thirty eight and counting.

Sign up for a project, and enjoy the fellowship of working with others on projects for the betterment of our community, while spreading the good news of Christ's love.

Enjoy a free sack lunch. Then at 4:30 P.M. return to Ross Gold Park for a free chicken dinner, and the closing session to include a worship concert.



MAY 2014

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<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>8:30 AM NURSERY</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">9:00 AM & 10:45 AM Worship</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>5:00 PM The Oasis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome New Members Mother's Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>6:00 PM Basketball</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co.</p> <p>9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite</p> <p>6:00 PM MISSION COMMITTEE</p> <p>7:00 PM ALL COMMITTEES</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>9:00 AM Grace Notes</p> <p>10:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>11:30 AM PRAYER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>12:00 PM O. A.</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">Trumpet Deadline June 7/July</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>9:00 AM O. A. (Lib)</p>																																																																																				
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 AM NURSERY</p> <p>10:00 AM King's Kids Summer Sunday Experience</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">10:00 AM Single Service</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">Youth Sunday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>6:00 PM Basketball</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co.</p> <p>9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite</p> <p>5:30 PM SESSION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>9:00 AM Grace Notes</p> <p>10:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>11:30 AM PRAYER</p> <p>12:00 PM -8:30 PM Circles Meeting, FLC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Circles Dinners Israel Trip</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>12:00 PM O. A.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>9:00 AM O. A. (Lib)</p>																																																																																				
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 AM NURSERY</p> <p>10:00 AM King's Kids Summer Sunday Experience</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">10:00 AM Single Service</p> <p>5:00 PM The Oasis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous</p> <p>6:00 PM Basketball</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co.</p> <p>9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite</p> <p>11:30 AM Desert Schooners, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trumpet Main g Israel Trip</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>9:00 AM Grace Notes</p> <p>10:00 AM & 5:30 PM BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>11:30 AM PRAYER</p> <p>7:00 PM Grace Works Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church</p> <p>9:00 AM Exercise Lite</p> <p>12:00 PM O. A.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>9:00 AM O. A. (Lib)</p>																																																																																				

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Carson City, NV 89703

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THE TRUMPET

Published by the
First Presbyterian Church
115 N. Division St.

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9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

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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.

May Sermons

May 4: "God's Messengers" Chapter 15 of *"The Story"*

May 11: "The Beginning of the End" Chapter 16 of *"The Story"*

May 18: Youth Sunday – "The Kingdoms Fall" Chapter 17 of *"The Story"*

May 25: "Daniel in Exile" Chapter 18 of *"The Story"*



Memorial Day
*Remember Those Who
Gave Their Lives*