The Newsletter of the First resoytenan charen of carson city

Vol. 51 No. 09

November 2014

From the Pastor's Workshop

"Learning to Sing"

Owing to printing deadlines and more importantly, God's perfect timing, I am writing this prior to the congregational vote on October 19. I am doing this because I want us to focus this month on thanksgiving that is independent of circumstance. We will be focusing on this throughout the month of November. And so I am writing without knowledge of the outcome of the vote. What I DO know is that the VAST majority of us sense God's calling to continue our mission and ministry in the way that is consistent with the teaching of scripture; to show people the salvation that comes only through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

If we are not able to be dismissed to a Presbyterian body that allows us autonomy, we could, with our ancient ancestors who were in captivity, lament in the words of Psalm 137...

⁴ How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? ⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! ⁶ Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

But if we do not sing when it is tough it presumes that we can only sing God's song of salvation and freedom when we are free *on our terms* and this just isn't the case. In fact, perhaps our song is heard more poignantly if it is heard knowing that we sing it from a place of hardship or captivity. Paul wrote from prison, Martin Luther King wrote from the Birmingham jail, Joseph did his best work in captivity, and most pointedly it was from the captivity of the cross that Jesus said, "*It is accomplished*." So we need to learn to sing no matter what happens in ANY chapter of life realizing as we do that our most influential singing comes from a place where it SEEMS we are in prison.

What we need to realize is that no matter what the outcome of the vote, we are free even as we are captives to a system and even a world that most needs to hear about Jesus. Joseph could ultimately say, "You meant it for harm, but God meant it for good." And God has a song for us to sing that by hearing it the world may know salvation. SO, no matter what the vote is may we rejoice rather than lament, that God has given us HIS song to sing in this foreign land. And as we sing it, may someone hear it and come to know Jesus.

Join me in rejoicing and giving thanks this month and every day of our journey home to where there is only freedom because we belong to Jesus Christ.

Yours in praising our Savior all the day long,

Bruce

Please see article "Follow up on the Vote" - page 5

THE NEXT CHAPTER

After a long season of discernment and study, the votes are in and we have a new denominational home. I am very thankful for how engaged we were as a congregation with all the tough questions. Our turnout on the 19th of October for the final meeting was *fantastic* and demonstrated very visibly the level of commitment we have toward being a faithful church.

So now what? I am confident that our decision to join ECO is the right one, but I am also certain that the real work is only just beginning. Non-believers don't care about our denomination. Just because we are in an organization that does a better job of encouraging evangelism does not mean that we are automatically going to start doing a better job of sharing the good news with our neighbors. And trust me – trying to explain to a non-believer the differences between two Presbyterian denominations is about as fruitful as me describing videogame mechanics to Leslie.

I hope that as we spend the next months and years considering the question "What does it mean to be ECO?" that we will really be asking ourselves, "What does it mean to be Christians together?" ECO is not going to save us or the world; Jesus is. I think ECO will do a better job encouraging us to be faithful witnesses, but it still comes down to our relationship with our Savior. How are we going to grow in faith and thanksgiving this year? Remember, God has blessed us to be a blessing to the world around us.

In Mark 6, beginning at verse 30, Jesus and his disciples try to get away from the crowds for some rest and relaxation. They have been traveling a ton and they just learned about John the Baptist's execution. Jesus says, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." And Mark adds, "For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." But the crowds run ahead of them arrive at their destination first. As Jesus went ashore, "he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things." Jesus and his disciples were tired, but Jesus was motivated by his love for lost people and that mattered more.

Have you spent time praying for Carson City? I walk my dogs along the ridge that ends with a hill from which you can see nearly all of the valley. I don't always pray when I go up there – I'm usually too pressed for time or distracted – but when I do, it is very motivating to consider all of the people in our town and how much they matter to God. Head to the nearest big box store and spend some time watching the people come and go. Pray for them and pray that the same compassion that filled Jesus' heart would take root in yours.

ECO partners with a mission-oriented demographic data service called MissionInsite, and that means that we have access to some really fascinating information about our town. For example, we've long said that 70% of Carson City is "unchurched," but did you know that only 18% say that "My Faith is really important to me" when surveyed? If so few value "faith" (not necessarily Christian faith), then what do the vast majority of our neighbors really care about in life? How do they understand and practice forgiveness? How can they tell the difference between things that matter and things that don't?

As Christians, we have received a great gift. We know our creator, we have been redeemed, and we know our ultimate destiny. Paul explains the significance of this gift in 2 Corinthians 14 and 15: "For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."

Dan





THE KING'S KIDS - NOVEMBER



...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



Jesus' parable:
The Wise and Foolish Builders



Jesus said to the man at the pool at Bethesda, "Take up your mat and walk."

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!

November 2: GREAT Faith! (Jesus heals the centurion's servant: Matthew 8)

November 9: Fragrant Devotion (A woman anoints Jesus: Luke 7)

November 16: Salt and Light (Jesus teaches how we should live: Matthew 5)
November 23: Peace! Be Still! (Jesus calms the storm: Matthew 8: Mark 4)

November 30: Healed & Alive! (Jesus heals a woman and Jairus' daughter: Mark 5)





Learn these together as a family; and watch for everyday experiences 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

"Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

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

The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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

Make-It-Take-It workshop of Christmas crafts. Come enjoy your kids and grandkids as they make ornaments and other decorations, decorate cookies, and we'll wrap up 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 (King's Kids and Youth)



Gratitude and Glory -

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."
(Psalm 100: 4-5)

Have you ever thought about the endless gifts God showers upon you day by day? What an amazing God we have! Our hearts could be full, hour by hour, but many times we whine about the things we don't have or we have to do (not the things we GET to do). Mark Galli wrote an interesting article in Christianity Today about 5 years ago called "The Impossibility of Thanksgiving" (November 25, 2009). In it he quotes 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, in which Paul says "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". Galli's thesis maintains that it would take a miracle for us to be thankful always and for everything (even the illness and destruction that clings so closely to us). It DOES take a miracle -- the miracle of Jesus Christ! We cannot give thanks unceasingly on our own, it's not in our fallen human DNA since our departure from the Garden. Only Christ and giving thanks in His name will allow us to see our powerlessness and that's when the turning to thankfulness happens. We become grateful in the giving of thanks.

Our response in thankfulness has to be linked with praise. We give thanks each week at the end of the offering time when we sing the Doxology. The Doxology has an interesting history. It was written by Thomas Ken, an Anglican Bishop of Bath and Wells. He was very outspoken and challenged the monarchs whom he served as a bishop of the Church of England. This actually landed him in jail with several other church leaders for a time. Ken wrote a number of hymns and always desired that Christians be allowed to sing their praise to God without being limited to Psalmody and the Bible canticles which were required church music of the time. Ken was one of the first English writers to produce hymns that were not versifications of the Psalms. What we call The Doxology was actually the refrain or chorus at the end of three hymns Ken wrote: Morning Hymn, Evening Hymn, and Midnight Hymn. Each had the Doxology as we know it at the end. The Morning Hymn, became especially popular and it's second verse states:

Direct, control, suggest, this day, All I design, or do, or say; That all my powers, with all their might, In Thy sole glory may unite.

Our music is always to be directed to God as He has given the gift of music for the sole purpose of reflecting glory back to Him. We must always be careful to attribute any achievement to our God and not keep it as our own. André Crouch knows this. As a young man he worked with Teen Challenge in Los Angeles and wrote songs for his Addicts Choir to sing. He led many to Christ, but one troubled soul, Larry Reed, was a key player in getting André to write one of his most sung pieces. Larry, told André that he'd had a dream that André needed to write a song based on John 17. Skeptical, André read the chapter and put it away. The next day, forgetting all about the conversation, he wrote the song "My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)". The song says:

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me Things so undeserved yet You give to show Your love for me The voices of a million angels could not reflect my gratitude, All that I am, and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory
To God be the glory
To God be the glory
For the things He has done
With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me
To God be the glory
For the things He has done

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In giving God the glory in the name of Jesus, we become far more thankful than we can be on our own initiative. It requires us to rely on Jesus doing something in us and through us to point to God our Father.

Here's a gratitude exercise: On November 1st, make a list of 3 things for which you are grateful. (You can always do more if you're feeling ambitious). Each day, try to add 3 more items to that list. Pray about each of those things each day and by the end of November, I'll bet your heart will be so filled with gratitude it spills over. In that way we can shine the light of Jesus for the world! Remember that the items don't all have to be good things, they can also be challenging things. Journal with these and see how God works in your life this month.

To GOD be the glory,

"Follow up on the Vote"

Dear Friends.

With the 90% vote to move to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians our doors are wide open to any and all to come hear of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This, as Dan "rememberized" us in his fine sermon on Titus 3:1-7 is what ALL OF US – THE WHOLE world needs to hear. What needs to stay constant as we move forward is the



friendship and bond we share in the love of Jesus Christ. Our mission has not changed. TOGETHER we get to make known to Carson City and the world that salvation and new life can be theirs in Jesus.

We need one another as different as we may think we are. We are one in Christ. No vote can change this unless we allow it. I pray we will live in this and that if we think there is any distance between us, we will reach out to one another in the spirit of Jesus and offer our hearts. We may always see parts of this short journey differently than one another, but what unites us is the knowledge that we have all been saved, are being saved and will be saved by what Jesus did for ALL people on the cross. Is there really time or purpose to be distanced from one another if this is what will hold us together forever? I don't think so.

SO, I want to encourage us to seek one another out and share the reconciling love of Jesus. Call one another up. Someone please take Duane Glanzmann to Starbuck's...he's never been! May we be candid and vulnerable with one another as we let Jesus love us all the way home in this new chapter. May there be no root of bitterness. In the words to the Ephesians which were meant to be circulated: "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." May Carson City see this circulating as we welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. In this we LIVE the Gospel.

Faithfully,

Bruce

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour at bedtime on Saturday, November 1.



DECEMBER TRUMPET DEADLINE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Have something interesting to share?

Christmas/Advent Activities?

Please send your articles to Dawn Berger:

dawn@fpccarsoncity.org

ATTENTION TRAVELERS AND ADDRESS MOVERS

Did you know that each month we mail our Trumpet newsletter to keep you informed about the activities of the church? However when you leave the area for a period of time the Post Office 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 email your change of address to char@fpccarsoncity.org.

Thank you, Office Staff



Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 10-19-2014

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

DEACONS THANKSGIVING MEAL STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2014

Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Single Worship Service

THE DEACONS' THANKSGIVING MEAL will take place on November 23. We will have one service at 10:00 a.m. It is a wonderful time of thanksgiving, fellowship and great food! If you wish to do so, we ask that those whose last name begin with the following letters:

- A-M bring potatoes or stuffing,
- N-R bring a dessert,
- S-Z bring a salad.

Or just bring your specialty! The deacons will provide the turkey, ham, cranberry sauce, rolls & gravy. Please know you do not have to bring a dish to join us for this lovely meal. Please contact Kristie Creek, Deacon Moderator, with any questions.



Names omitted in online version for privacy.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday & Friday, November 27—28
Thanksgiving Weekend

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Please remember church membership lists are to be used exclusively by members only. They are not to be used, even by members, for circulation, solicitation, or commercial purposes of any kind.

SAVE THE DATE Traing of the Greens Training of the G

Saturday, December 6, 2014—9:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Church Building

WOMEN'S THURSDAY AFTERNOON Bible Study Group will meet November 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the church library. They are studying "PARABLES, The Greatest Stories Ever Told" by John White. This group meets the second Thursday of every month. For further information please contact Charlotte Fenlon at 775-885-8894.

A New Ministry to Begin

A meaningful ministry is being proposed by the "prayer group" to include Sunday prayer. If you feel called to be a "pray-er", please leave your name at the front desk in the church office. Additional information will be forthcoming.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Carson City typically has over 500 homeless children enrolled in its schools at any given time. Many of our homeless children have very little or no food to eat on the weekends. Weekend program, Food for Thought, Inc. discreetly provides a bag of food for Carson City's hungry homeless children every Friday allowing them to eat on the weekends. Weekend programs provides breakfast, lunch and snacks. How can we help? List of foods needed is online at www.nvfoodforthought.org. They are also looking for volunteers to assist with food bagging on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 7, 14 & 28, 9:30—11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 21, 5:00—6:30 p.m.

You may sign-up online for food bagging or contact Food for Thought at 775-885-7770. They place volunteers on the list on a first come first serve basis. Food for Thought is located in the old Kmart shopping center at 3246 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89706.



COOKIE SWAP COMING SOON!

Get your cookie recipes ready! We are having a CHURCH COOKIE SWAP Saturday, November 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Watch upcoming bulletins for further details. If you would like to help, please see Sherri Chenin.

2015 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



For such a time as these... Sharing our Gifts from God

Dear Friends.

This is a special season of stewardship. God has opened a door for us to move forward, focused and without distraction in proclaiming Jesus as Lord. I believe God has positioned us this way so that people's lives may be saved. Like Esther, we have been given a "royal position" for "such a time as this".

As we hold the pledge card in our hands consider these words, "Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back – given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." Luke 6:38-39 The Message

2015 will be a new day for this congregation. Our cost of doing ministry will not go down, but our hearts can go UP as we realize how effective God makes every dollar as we have committed to be only about biblical living and values. I have always been SO encouraged by your generosity because I see Jesus pouring himself out as you let yourselves be used by him.

We were made "for such a time as this". May we be as bold as Esther who interceded to save people. May we realize that is what happens when we give in Jesus' name.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

















9:00 AM & 10.4 5 AM Worship

9:00 AM Kings's Kids Bible
Experience

9:00 AM Sund ay School - Adult

4:30 PM MS Youth Go up

5:30 PM HS Youth Go up

NOVEMBER 2014

Friday

Saturday

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

2 8:30 AM NURSERY			28 29 30 31	20 27		10:00 AM Nevada Day Parade
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 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 Budget Meeting	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	6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station	7 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite	8:00 AM Church Leaf Clean-up Day, Front Lawn
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 AM WOMEN'S B BLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 6:30 AM WOMEN'S B BLE STUDY, Library 9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite 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 8:00 PM Men's Chorus	6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station 1:30 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM Men's Chorus	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 7:00 PM Youth Movie Night, Youth Room Dec.Trumpet Deadline	15
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 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 w/Choir Circles Dinners	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	22 2:00 PM Church Cookie Swap
8:45 AM Sundary School - Adult 9:30 AM NURSERY 10:00 AM Kings's Kids Bible Experience 10:00 AM One Worship Service 11:30 AM Deacons Thanksgiving meal/potluck 4:30 PM MS Youth Group 5:30 PM HS Youth Group	9:00 AM Exercise Lite 6:00 PM Basketball Trumpet Maing	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 11:30 AM PRAYER	OFFICE CLOSED 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	29

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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.

November Sermons

November 2: "In *All* Things?" 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

November 9: "Re-Joice" Philippians 4:4-7

November 16: "Love That Grows"

Philippians 1:9-11

November 23: "Fragrance of Gratitude"

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 (One Service – Pledge Sunday – Deacons Thanksgiving Meal)

Deacons Inanksgiving Mea

November 30: "Ready?"

Mark 13:24-37 – First Sunday in Advent

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