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October 2023

Stewardship in Times of Transition

By Angela Denker

April 25, 2018 Leading Ideas

Transitions are hard. Change is hard. Transitions are often especially hard in the church. Not long ago, I left a beloved call as my family and I followed my husband's call to a new job in a different state, closer to our families. As my final sermon and Sunday morning approached, I found myself thinking about stewardship — especially at this time of transition in the church.

In times of transition, mission and vision can become unclear, especially if they rely too much on individual personalities. If a church's mission is tied to a particular pastor, the mission flounders when the pastor leaves.



Clarity of vision and mission

Helping people to grow in their giving relies upon a clear sense of vision and mission. Just as Jesus encouraged the disciples with a clear task at the Great Commission, we as modern-day disciples and church leaders often attempt to encourage giving by reminding people of our mission.

In times of transition, mission and vision can become unclear, especially if they rely too much on individual personalities or business-oriented strategic plans. If a church's mission is tied to a particular pastor, the mission flounders when the pastor leaves. If people give because of their allegiance to a particular ministry or a particular person, giving is rooted in personality rather than faith in Jesus.

As pastors come and go, ministries change, attendance rises and falls. So how do we sustain stewardship and giving in times of transition in the church?

Stewardship rooted in faith

The key is rooting stewardship in faith in Jesus and in God's mission, rather than the church or a pastor's individualized mission. To make this work, people must see the local church as an arm of God's larger mission in the world. Leaders must connect giving through regular offering, or "general fund," to the life-saving and redeeming work of Jesus Christ. We must explain that while the general offering may pay the electric bill, the electricity at church enables us to hold weekly worship, or host families experiencing homelessness overnight.

The church's mission is bigger than one individual

We must remember to make the church's mission independent of ourselves as individuals, making it easy to hand off to the next leaders of the church. We must enable ourselves and others to see multiple ways of achieving that mission, regardless of specific leaders or programs.

The heart of stewardship lies in this truth: none of us is individually the mission. Jesus is the mission of the church. We each are merely tools God uses to achieve that mission, and one of our most important tasks is to know how to hand off the mission to the next leader.

In times of transition, to enable steady giving and stewardship in the church, leaders must focus on the future. I am reminded of this verse: "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).

Hope in the future

Notice that the Lord says *plans* not *a plan*. God will use many people and many tactics to complete the mission of the church: to save lives and set people free through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many leaders will be a part of that mission. They all rely on those who come before and after.

What we all must cling to in times of transition is God's incredible promise: a future with hope. It is that future to which leaders must point again and again, reminding people of God's ongoing mission even in the midst of change and transition at the local church.

This article originally appeared in the newsletter of the Center for Stewardship Leaders at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

Our theme for the 2024 stewardship campaign is "A Future and A Hope" For I know

For I know
the plans I have
for you,
declares the LORD,
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and not for evil,
to give you a future
and a lope.

Jeremiah 29:11

Our theme for the 2024 stewardship campaign is "A Future and A Hope." Jerimiah 29:11-14 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD."

STEWARDSHIP 2024

The year 2023 has brought unexpected challenges to our body. We should never think that what has happened is outside of God's control. God says he has a Future for us, His church. As we proceed to find the pastor He is preparing for us, let us not lose Hope.

Our giving this year through August is about . God commands us to give. Often, we think of giving as financial, but we are to give of ALL that God has given us. That includes our talents, time, knowledge, abilities, prayer time, etc. As you fill out your pledge card, prayerfully consider all the ways you can support the growth of God's church.

As our elders prepare for the 2024 budget, your pledges give us an idea of what funds we have for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. There will be a need for additional funds to hire a new pastor in 2024.

Pledge cards will be mailed to you on October 23rd and will also be available in the pews and Narthex on the 29th. Stewardship Dedication Sunday will occur in mid-November.

Remember that God has "A Future and a Hope" for us and His church at First Presbyterian Carson City.

George Stanton, Elder

Congregational Giving General Budget

THANK YOU, ALL!!



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2023 AUTUMN ALLITERATION ADVENTURE

Saturday, October 21 - 5pm

Join us for the 2nd annual Autumn Alliteration Adventure

Casserole Cook-off Film Festival Song Soiree

Have your favorite homemade casserole to the Family Life Center by 4:30 for judging. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place!

Enjoy these scenes from last year's AAA and join in on the fun this year as we eat, watch and sing!





The Role of Music During Worship Service

The role of music is to serve the larger purposes of worship. Music in worship can help the congregation to communicate and share the word of God. Music is a wonderful and powerful means of communication and expression. Employed theologically and artfully, worship music helps us focus on God.

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten stringed lyre [guitar] and the melody of the harp [keyboard]." Psalm 92:1-3.

Music encourages the congregation when they sing the truths of God. When the church gathers for worship the congregation engages with God through singing, clapping, bowing, lifting hands, and other biblical actions, often led by music. Other worship actions are accompanied with music in the background. Melody and harmony bring us together in a unique way. Music also unites us physically when we clap together in rhythm.

Music exposes the congregation to the Gospel and it has a message to tell! The songs must declare the truth of the Word of God, especially the good news of the Gospel. Psalm 40:3 says, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in you hearts." Colossians 3:16

Music encourages others to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. Worship is focused adoration and devotion to God. It requires the engagement of the mind and the heart to the Lord at the exclusion of all else. Singing can certainly lead us into worship. Consider 2 Kings 3:14-15: It does not appear that Elisha himself was a musician, but he knew the value and importance of music! The text shows that he had been called into a mess and appears irritated. The minstrel played music that helped him! Good music can help seal off distractions, and get you prepared in mind and spirit to receive from the Lord. After researching the roles of music within our church and significance it plays, we certainly have great reason for music in our church services!

Blessings, **Stewart**

Looking for Volunteers!!
Come help make our second
Holiday Craft Fair
a great success!

Holiday Art & Craft Fair

Handmade Gifts for that Special Person

Friday, October 13, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Saturday, October 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church Carson City 115 N. Division Street, Carson City

Entrance fee \$1.00 or a can of food to be donated to the Northern Nevada Dream Center bringing hope, relief, and God's love to our local community.

We need help on

- Thursday, October 12 to take down tables and chairs.
- Friday, October 13, 3:30 7:00 pm and
- Saturday, October 14 8:30
 am 4:00 pm (morning or afternoon) during the fair to work entrances, to sell FPC crafts and goodies, and to relieve workers selling FPC crafts, cookies and coffee.
- Saturday, October 14 after fair to set up tables and chairs for Sunday church.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE GIVING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

F.I.S.H. needs high protein foods, such as: tuna, chili, Spam, ramen noodle soup, ravioli. These can be dropped off at the FISH Thrift Store, in the back of the building—ring the bell for assistance. Call (775)882-3474 for more information or other ways to donate.

PILGRIM RADIO is looking for financial and volunteer support. Financial support can be sent to Pilgrim Radio, Box 2188, Carson City, NV 89721 or through pilgrimradio.com. If you are interested in volunteering, call (775)883-5647 or email info@pilgrimradio.com.

Jeff & Abbie Nelson, are missionaries in Guatemala through Serge in Jenkinstown, PA. (They visited here at FPC recently.) You can donate at https://serge.org or call (215)885-4762. If you are interested in reading their fall newsletter go to https://abbie.jeffnelson.substack.com.

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER FELLOWSHIP DINNER!

Are you interested in getting to know others in our church family? Sign up **NOW** to attend a Fellowship Dinner on **October 6th or 7th**. These dinners are small gatherings in individual homes to share fellowship, food, and fun. These dinners usually have 6-8 people with the host providing a main dish and guests bringing a dish to share. Sign-ups are happening now during Coffee Hour so see Sandy Ehresman or Diane Young *right away* if you haven't yet signed up.



If you can't make it this time, the next Dinners will be December 8 & 9—details for those dinners will be coming soon!



Mark your calendars for the next **DEACON SUNDAY**, following worship on **OCTOBER 8** in the Family Life Center! If you don't already know your Deacon, this is a great time to find out who they are and say, "Hi!" There will be LOTS of snacks, so plan to eat!!

Deacons want to remind those who are unable to come to church that you can request that Communion be brought to your home. Contact your deacon or the office.



Operation Christmas Child boxes are ready for pick up in the Narthex and in the office, If you haven't picked up a gift list they are also available. If you have any questions, see Lynne Weaver.

Boxes are due back by Nov. 12.



Adult Sunday School.

A new study: "The Apostle's Creed, What We Believe" begins **October 1** and runs through November 5. Led by Bill Rose, class begins at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall.

If anyone is interested in participating in a Bi-Weekly Brown Bag Prayer Walk, contact Bill Rose for information.



A New Women's Bible Study

is starting up with a study of the Book of John First Meeting is Thursday, Oct. 5, 9:30 am at the home of Sandy Cashion,

2675 Pinebrook Dr., Carson City.
Contact Sandy with any questions.



Looking for Opportunities for Bible Study, Prayer Time, and Fellowship? Here are some to consider—contact the office for more information.

Sundays: Prayer Group—prior to worship in the Prayer Room by the Nursery **Mondays**: Women's Weekly Study in the Library at 11:15 am

Priority Prayer Group in the Library at 5:30 pm

Tuesdays: SON Rise Women's Bible Study held at various homes at 8:30 am

Wednesdays: Men's Bible Study - Eagle Valley Golf Course at 9:00 am **Thursdays**: Wilson Men's Fellowship - Eagle Valley Golf Course at 9:00 am

Women's Weekly Bible Study at the Cashion's at 9:30 am
Women's Monthly Bible Study in the Library at 1:00 pm

Friday: Berean Men's Bible Study - in the Library at 6:30 am



Names removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 09-20-2023

Bruce Ross (Family-Hallie Kirk) † Faith (Friend-Allison Carmichael) † Jack Boyd (Family-Hataways & Berges) † Ed Schwitters † Maria Kumlander (Friend-Omega Collins) Phil & Steve Pierce Sue Atwater (Friend-Barbara Kowal) Diane, Pat Roberts (Friends-Sharron & Richard Baldwin) Diane Yang Jack & Reeney (Family-Berge/Hataway) † Dick Romine (Family-Laura Oswald) † Shelly, Dan Loeffler (Friend & Family – Mary Burgoon Spradley) + Carolyn Casselman + Kathy Rothchild + Ron Roberts + Karen Irvin, Judy Irvin (Family-Doris Wheeler) + FPC Staff + John & Bonnie Bullis + Bret Douglas (Family-Curtis & Sonja Radig) ♦ Pat Green ♦ Ray & Juli Wilson ♦ Curt Spradley ♦ Doris Wheeler, Omega Collins, Amaris Rayes, Verlene DeDios (Family-Doris Wheeler & Omega Collins) ♦ Charlotte Fenlon ♦ Pat Smith ♦ Chuck & Pat Beattie † Lu Hawley † Mary Lou Pawley † Norris & Kathy Schultz † Johannes Vanderwal † Rom & Nancy Story † Karolyn Belcher † Jamie, Faye, Todd, and Pam Wheeler + Shirley Parks + Todd & Kellie Butterworth ♥ Relinda & Evangelina, Bob (Family-Johannes & Lori Vanderwal) ♥ Fire and Law Enforcement, First Responders, Front-line Caregivers; our Local, State, and National leaders



Loraine Pierce September 4

Gloria Gaillard-Powell September 5 Memorial Service (tentatively) October 21



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR

NOVEMBER is October 16

Send your info / articles / submissions to mago@fpccarsoncity.org



Removed for privacy





SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search for a New Pastor Continues!

The Job Description and CIF
have been posted on multiple
websites. Now we wait...and ask
you to continue to pray! We

welcome your questions. If you would like to leave a note with a question or information relevant to the pastor search, feel free to leave it in the Pastor Search Team mail slot in the short hallway by the Library. The Pastor Search Team members are: Mary Berge, David Berger, Jacque Dyer, Wil Euler, Dale Hatchell, Barbara MacSween, and Rob Scanland.



PRAY FOR OUR Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy

Do you have an active-duty military family member or friend you would like to put into our prayer list as well as having their picture posted in the hallway? Contact the office at 775-882-1032.



Advocates to End Domestic Violence is seeking volunteers to help with our domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines. Training will be in late October to November at the Advocates office located at 3640 Gordon St. Training will encompass some week nights as well as some weekend days. If you are interested or if you have questions, please call Krae Waller at 775-883-7654 (work). We are also seeking volunteers to help at our Classy Seconds Thrift Store. If you are interested in volunteering at the thrift store, please call the store at 775-841-7081 and ask to speak to the manager or you may drop by the store at your convenience. Thank you for all of your continued support to our programs!!

Life Choices Annual Gala Report

What an inspirational, fun evening we had on September 15th at the Life Choices 40th Anniversary Gala Banquet at the Atlantis in Reno. We were privileged to watch a sonogram of a 16-week-old baby and hear the story of how prayers helped the mother choose life. Kirk Cameron, our feature speaker, inspired us with his story of becoming a Christian, marrying and then he and his wife adopting 4 children before she got pregnant. His son shared his story of finding his birth mother and thanking her for choosing life.

Thank you for your ongoing pledges and gifts to FPC so your mission committee can continue to support Christ-centered missions like Life Choices in your name. Thank you to the 14 people who bought tickets for the Gala and were able to attend. God is Good! Charlene Rodman, Life Choices Ambassador



The work of the 2023 Nominating Commission is underway to identify Covenant Partners who would like to serve as Elders and Deacons for a three-year term beginning January of 2024.

The Commission seeks your input as they consider the persons to fill these important leadership roles in our church. They should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior. They must also already be a member of this congregation. If you wish to nominate someone, please first ask that person if they are willing to be nominated.

PREREQUISITES TO SERVE:

ELDER

- Participating member of First Presbyterian Church of Carson City for two years
- Spiritual Maturity
- ◆ Good Reputation
- Able to present their testimony
- ♦ Knowledge of Scripture
- Leadership skills

DEACON

- Participating member of First Presbyterian Church of Carson City
- ♦ Heart for ministry & service
- ♦ Integrity
- ♦ Organized
- Committed to FPC's Mission

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ELDER:				
DEACON:				

Please return this form to one of the Nominating Commission members: George Branson (Chair), Debbie Audet, Dave Berger, Jane Hancock, Dale Hatchell, Dede Stevens, Rob Scanland, Carol Wilson If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 775-882-1032

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: OCTOBER 22, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of North Division & West King Streets Administration Office 306 West Musser Street Carson City, NV 89703 Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Carson City, NV 89701 Permit Number 173

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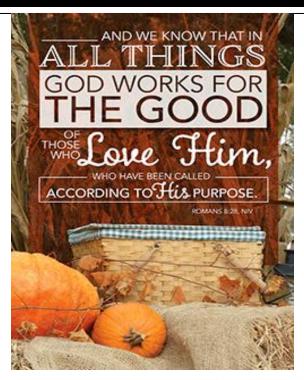
Carson City, NV 89703

775-882-1032

Worship Services 10:00 AM

Webpage www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org; they may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by George & Connie Stanton.



See us and "Like" us on







		N. Control			**	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3	11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – FPC Library	9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex	9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion Residence	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	
Sunday School 10:00 am: Communion Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Mtg – Library		5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg - FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Library	Tun	W S H I P
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10:00 am: Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am: DEACON SUNDAY - FLC	5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Mtg – Library	5:30 & 7:00 pm: Cmte Mtgs – all rooms	5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg - FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	Monthly Bible Study – Library 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Library	4:00 pm: Arts & Craft Fair benefitting the Old Sanctuary – closes at 7:00 pm	FAIR
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followed by Coffee Fellowship TRUMPET DEADLINE	5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Mtg – Library		- FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Library		5:00 pm: Autumn Alliteration/Casserol Contest Potluck - FLG
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