



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 50 No. 10

December 2013

From the Pastor's Workshop

"Who Will We Bring to the Manger?"

It's already December! Once more Advent and Christmas are upon us. Does it ever feel to you like time moves in such a way that everything flows together without boundaries? For me, I need distinction, particularly at Christmas. I want to say to the all the other stuff of life what I see on some emails: "I will be out of the office from December 1-25. If you need me I will be in Bethlehem. Please know that you are invited to join me there. I will be at the manger just behind the Inn with the "no vacancy" sign."

I say this because the significance of Advent is something there is NEVER enough time to ponder, but when we make the time, I believe all of life comes together. When we start to realize what it means that God came to earth in human form and *why* he did, a lot of questions about our entire existence are either answered or they disappear in the light of what God did.

Because this is so I need more time to think about it and pray about it and sing about it and let a lot of other stuff just fall away. And when I do it makes me want to tell other people and invite them to ponder with me who Jesus is and why he came and what it means for the world.

You see, Jesus came because we are a lost people trying to find political, social, spiritual, and economic hope. And he came to step into our darkness and questioning to *BE* the answer. "That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown" to borrow Linus' great line.

But what if people don't know this? I've found over the years I've been in plenty of discussions that are not very helpful in talking about God largely because there is not enough time simply listening to who Jesus is. And THAT is why I've found the best place to go is to the manger and simply say, "*There he is. Look for yourself. Who do you think he is?*" And when ANY of us will do this; I mean REALLY listen to Jesus and consider him all of life starts to look VERY different.

Who do you know that needs to come to the manger? How far is it to Bethlehem? Not as far as we think. It is really just that one step away from the old life and toward letting Jesus show himself to us. It is the one step toward someone we know, taking them by the arm and the heart and saying, "Come with me for a little while. There's something I know you will want to see."

And where is the manger? Right here, where God's people gather to worship and pray and sing and ponder about God coming in the flesh to make all things new. This month we have developed some invitations for you to use to invite people. I call them "Directions to the Manger". You can pick them up at church or the office and use them to show people the way to the place that will answer questions they have been asking and didn't even know it. I hope you will use lots of them because there are lots of people who need to be "at the manger".

May this be the most blessed and pondering Advent of your entire life.

Yours in Him who invites us to come and meet Him meeting us, *Bruce*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
December 24th, 5:00 & 7:00 PM

Upcoming Youth Events

*No Oasis Youth Group
on December 1st (after
Thanksgiving) or 29th
(after Christmas)*

Advent Workshop—December 8th, 2-4:30pm

Youth are encouraged to come and help the Children's Ministry Team with the workshop. Children are invited the Family Life Center for Make-'n'-take crafts & cookies, plus pizza!

King's Kids & Youth Christmas Pageant—December 15th, 10am

Come watch your friends take part in a one of a kind Christmas Pageant at a single worship service, followed by refreshments.

Christmas Party—December 15th, 5pm

Food, games, & gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift (less than \$10 value).

Redecorate Youth Room—December 21st, 1pm

Come help redecorate the youth room. The band members of Cadence Please will be helping and spending time with us.

Christmas Concert featuring Cadence Please—December 22nd, 5pm

Traveling worship band Cadence Please will perform in the sanctuary in a special concert hosted by our youth ministry.

Confirmation—January, 2014

Confirmation class for youth in ninth grade (or older) will begin in January. Class sessions will take place during the 10:45am service. Talk to Dan if you'd like to participate!

Sunday School for Grades 6-8—January, 2014

We're going to reintroduce Sunday School for middle school youth during the 9am service on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The classes will be hosted by adult volunteers and Confirmation graduates. Stay tuned for more details!



Clockwise from top left: Leslie leads a Bible study; Pizza, Wings, & Fries before a concert in Sparks; in the stands at a SLHS volleyball game; enjoying a wonderful dinner cooked by Jose & Carol Paz



THE KING'S KIDS – DECEMBER



...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 Big Story --- asking WHO is the King?

NOTE: December 1st & 8th: King's Kids go immediately upstairs at 9:00 a.m. so we can practice our songs for the Christmas Pageant!

Dec. 1: "The King is Born" (Jesus is born in Bethlehem)

Dec. 8: "Love Came Down at Christmas"

Dec. 15: Christmas Pageant (ONE service: 10:00 a.m.)

Dec. 22: "The Very First Noel"



DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES

Memorize these verses as a family and see how God uses them in your lives!

Kids receive a jewel on their SON-Castle shield, and a gold coin toward purchases at the Royal Market.

"To you is born this day, in the city of David,
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11



Older King's Kids' challenge:

Old Testament books: Books of Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Books of History: Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1, 2 Samuel; 1, 2 Kings; 1 & 2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Friday-Saturday, December 6th & 7th: Food for Thought sponsored Ladies' Night Out & craft show – Watch for further information

Sunday, December 8th: 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! **Bring a friend!**

Saturday, December 14th: 9:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal for **ALL** King's Kids & Youth Actors

Sunday, December 15th: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant (King's Kids and Youth)

REMEMBER: GREAT DVD's & books are in the Kids' section of our church library!



2014 KING'S KIDS CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE!

(Profits from these sales will go to World Vision projects.)

The King's Kids will vote on which project(s) they wish to spend their money. You are welcome to add to their "gift" to World Vision! Watch for info. yet to come!

Worship - Our Biblical Mandate

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name" (Psalm 30:4)

"Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16)

"Praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals" (Psalm 150:4-5)

Worship music is not the warm-up for anything. Worship is the central activity of God's people. We are commanded to gather and worship God using song, (Ps. 149:1 and 1 Thess 5:17). Song is not the only way we worship God, however. There are personal devotions, prayer, preaching or testimony and doing things for others. We are called to use our whole lives to declare God's "worth-ship" (remember that is where the word "worship" comes from). We need to get better at this, for we will be doing it in His presence for eternity when Christ returns for His church.

It is easy to worship when everything is going well in our lives. But when things are not going well, its can be much more difficult to worship. The way to get through the roadblock is to focus our eyes on Him and let everything else fall away as we worship. We are called to dedicate our whole lives to God -- making our worship one of complete devotion to Him, in the same way we are called to use our whole bodies in worship:

Whether we physically stand, bow down, kneel, raise our hands or become prostrate on the floor, how do you show these acts of worship? (Psalm 95:6, Psalm 63:4, Ezra 9: 5-6, 2 Chron. 20:18, Luke 22:4)

Whether we treat others as we would like to be treated; we do an act of kindness for a stranger, or our neighbor, or our family member -- how do you show your devotion to God? (John 4:23, Eph. 2:10, Romans 12:1-2)

Whether we speak truth in love -- honestly, or gracefully speak into another's life in such a way we don't hurt the person we are speaking with, or sing our adoration to God, or watch our language, or soften or harden our tone of voice -- how do you show Jesus what the content of your heart is? (Psalm 39:1, Matthew 12:34 and Matthew 15:11)

Our thoughts are inseparable from our bodies -- even though they aren't necessarily part of our bodies. How do YOU take every thought captive to Christ -- including the thoughts you have about yourself! Ask yourself: "Am I thinking the way the world thinks -- or the way Christ thinks?" (Psalm 10:4 and 2 Cor.10:5)

Let's ask God every day, and especially when we are in worship, to guide and direct our thoughts and actions so that they are pleasing to Him. Let's also bend the knees He made and lift the hands He made to worship Him in private and/or in public. Let's lift the voices He made to praise Him and finally, (and especially), let us lift our hearts to the Lord, for He is our Maker, our Provider, our Savior and our Deliverer.

One day I will be asked what I have done for The Lord, and I do not want to make excuses for holding myself back in expressing my devotion to God out of fear of what someone might have thought of me. Indeed, I have no defense! The only thing that is important in this life and the next is what God through Christ and the Holy Spirit has done for me and for countless others! As we come into this Advent season, I pray we will all remember the single focus of worship and that God sent His Son specifically for each us, and for all, that no one might be lost. This rescue that God gives is worth everything!

Gratefully in His service,
Karen

P.S. Join the Women's Choir or Men's Chorus for rehearsals and two services this December. This is a short term commitment during Advent and Christmas. We are looking for folks who enjoy singing. Reading music is NOT required. Check the December Calendar elsewhere in this publication for dates and times. We'd love to have you join us and make a joyful noise!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDEES

Duane Glanzmann will lead us in the books of Thessalonians commencing on January 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Don't forget the class on Revelation will meet Sunday, December 15 at 8:45 a.m. The Children's Christmas Pageant will follow at 10:00 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

Desert Schooners Chile Cook-Off
Saturday, February 1, 2014

Zephyr Point Spring Workday
Saturday, May 3, 2014

Zephyr Point Fall Work Weekend
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 26-28, 2014

THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Advent is the first season of the Christian year and begins four Sundays before Christmas. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "arrival." Advent is the season of the church year that we celebrate the first arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and prepare in anticipation for His promised "second arrival." One way we remember and prepare is through the lighting of the Advent Candles at each Sunday service and on Christmas Eve. There are many different traditions about the Advent Candles and their meaning. Here's ours!

- The **Hope** Candle is the first candle, December 1st.
- The **Peace** Candle is the second candle, December 8th.
- The **Joy** Candle is the third candle, December 15th.
- The **Love** Candle is the fourth candle, December 22nd.
- The **Christ** Candle is lit on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

May you experience all the blessings of this Advent Season.



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

You are invited to attend the marriage of church members Curt Spradley and Mary Burgoon, January 19, 2014 after the second service at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. Mary is requesting a RSVP at 884-3011 in order to ensure enough food for everyone.

Please leave a message on Mary's answering service as to how many will be attending.

Thank you.

GROW IN FAITH BY TRAVEL -- 2014 OPPORTUNITIES

A great way to understand our faith better is to travel to the source. May 18-30 Bruce and Nancy will be offering our grand pilgrimage to Israel. It is inspiring and fun. The food and accommodations are wonderful. The learning will shape your faith for a lifetime.

November 5-13, 2014 we will be traveling to Paris to cruise the Seine on the way to the 70th anniversary of D-Day at the Normandy beaches. Along the way we will see great works of art and hear lectures from Pastor Maxie Dunnam, editor of the Upper Room. Please see Bruce or Nancy for details on either of these great opportunities or go to eo.travelwithus.com.

KOCHSMEIER OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 22, 2013 – 2:00-4:00 PM

2347 Christmas Tree Lane

Stop by and enjoy fellowship & food.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Wednesday & Thursday, December 25 & 26, and Wednesday, January 1 for Christmas and New Year's.

NEWS FROM BUILDING & GROUNDS

It's that time of the year, when leaves turn, temperatures drop and our utility bills here at the Church take a turn UPWARDS! While it is something which happens every year we are passing on a few tips which will help us stay within our budgeted utility usage. They include:

- 1) Please close any windows you might open during a meeting or function.
- 2) All doors should be closed in the Church when not in use. This has been an issue not quickly accepted but is part of the State Fire Marshall Code for our building.
- 3) Turn the temperature down when leaving. Also if you can hold your meeting 3-4 degrees cooler than usual that would be very helpful.
- 4) Turn OFF all lights when leaving.

One of the most surprising utility changes has been the hefty water & sewer increase. Our city decided to make up for lost revenue over the years. They have re-classified us to commercial non-occupied as we do not have a person residing on the premises. We will now be seeing water and sewage bills which are nearly 3 times what they were

As this is a fixed line item in our budget, we can and have plugged in money to handle it. However, it also puts a dent in the increase of our fixed costs. Should you encounter any water waste, no matter what time of the day, please give Ken Pearson (775-721-7373) or Dennie Young (775-671-7974) a call ASAP. Lawn sprinklers will be looked at for savings to help reduce additional costs.

I would like to thank each of you for your support and watchful eye on utility usage. I would like to assure you we will do everything possible to reduce problems which might promote additional costs in this area.

B. Dennis Young, Chairman

Building & Grounds

ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION DUE

Do you lead a ministry group or help spend the church's money? In preparation for the Annual Report, church officers, group leaders, staff and other members of the congregation that serve at First Presbyterian Church will need to submit their year-end report. In order to allow sufficient time to assemble the Annual Report, we ask that your submission be received by **Tuesday, December 31**. Please *email* your report to dawn@fpccarsoncity.org. You may also deliver your information via a flash drive.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2014

One Service at 10:00 AM

Followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting for the purpose of:

- Receiving the budget set by session,
- Electing elders, deacons and nominating committee, and
- Vote of pastoral terms of call.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS are to be used exclusively by members only and not to be used, even by members, for circulation, solicitation, or commercial purposes of any kind.

ATTENTION TRAVELERS AND ADDRESS MOVERS

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

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Since the 1930's the Christmas Joy Offering has been a special offering designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church. This year half of this offering will help families of active and retired Presbyterian Church workers who have unexpected financial needs. The other half will help support Presbyterian-related minority schools and colleges. On Sunday, December 15, there will be a Christmas Joy Offering envelope in each bulletin. We will receive the offering on Sunday, December 22. If you pay by check, please make it payable to FPC with Christmas Joy Offering on the memo line.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Come & join us in decorating our church for the Christmas season. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 7 and work until done. We are looking forward to a great turnout! If you have questions, please contact Marylou Pawley at 775-461-0061.

RING and SING

There will be a worship concert of hand-bell music interspersed with Christmas carols sung by the congregation. Come and enjoy!

Sunday, December 15th

Come at 5:30 pm for an all church
POTLUCK dinner

Last Name ending:

A-G bring an Entrée,

H-O bring a Dessert, and

P-Z bring a salad.

Then Stay for Ring and Sing at 7pm

**Come sing Christmas carols and
listen to the Grace Notes hand-bell
choir**



Poinsettias

The Deacons place poinsettias in the Sanctuary for worship services in memory or honor of your loved ones. These will be acknowledged in a bulletin insert. The deadline to order plants is December 9 and the cost is \$10.00 per plant. People who wish to take their plants may do so after the Christmas Eve service. Place this completed form in the offering plate along with your check marked "Poinsettia" or take it to the church office. Thank you for helping.

Your name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up plant after Christmas Eve service.

_____ Deacons may deliver plant to someone.

_____ Number of plants ordered (limit of 3).

\$_____ Amount enclosed



December Birthdays

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 11-17-2013

Names omitted in online version for privacy.



December Anniversaries

Names omitted in online version for privacy.

2014 GIVING ENVELOPES

This is a reminder that if you have a contribution number between 1 and 100 you may pick up your new 2014 **BLUE** envelope mid-December in the narthex. Some notes:

1. If you have had envelopes but do not want them in 2014, please notify Charlene Rodman at the church office as soon as possible. Your giving number will then change.
2. If you did not have envelopes in 2013 but want them for 2014 please notify Charlene as soon as possible.

PLEASE DISCARD YOUR 2013 PINK ENVELOPES.

YEAR END GIVING

We are so grateful for your generous hearts in giving to the mission of First Presbyterian Church in 2013. It has been a blessed year.

We would like to remind you that if you are giving in December and would like your donation to be credited to calendar year 2013, your gift must be in the church office by the morning of Sunday, December 29, 2013, or postmarked by December 31, 2013.

Thank you again for your gifts to this church.

DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																
1 8:30 AM NURSERY 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School	2 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 5:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM DEACONS 7:00 PM Prsie Team	3 6:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ San Rafael Coffee Co. 9:00 AM Grace Notes Lite 7:00 PM Women's Choir	4 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 Women's Choir	5 6:30 AM WILSON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Carson Station	6 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 AM FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP @ Church 9:00 AM Exercise Lite 12:00 PM O. A.	7 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens 9:00 AM O.A. (Lib)																																																																																																
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE TRUMPET

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115 N. Division St.

OFFICE

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Carson City, NV 89703
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Pastors

The Rev. Bruce Kochsmeier
The Rev. Dan Aument

Worship Services

9:00 AM & 10:45 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.

December Sermons

December 1: "Wake Up, He's Coming!" Romans 13:11-14

December 8: "Construction Zone" Matthew 3:1-12

December 15: 10 AM -- ONE SERVICE – Christmas Pageant

December 22: "God with Us" Matthew 1:18–25

December 24: 5 and 7 PM "Directions to the Manger"
Luke 2 and Isaiah 9

December 29: "Remembering Christmas" Isaiah 63:7-9

