

The background of the entire page is a dense, overlapping collage of numerous small, rectangular prayer cards. These cards are in various colors, including shades of red, orange, yellow, and blue. They feature different themes of prayer, such as 'LORD of my desire', 'LORD of my resources', 'LORD of all nations', and 'LORD of my voice'. Some cards include biblical references like Exodus 20:14, Exodus 20:15, and Psalm 67:3. The cards are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and abundance, with some cards in the foreground being more prominent than others.

# FIRST PRES

October 2018

**LORD**  
*of my resources*  
You shall not steal.  
Exodus 20:15

*of my desire*  
You shall not  
commit adultery.  
Exodus 20:14

*of my desire*  
You shall not  
commit adultery.  
Exodus 20:14

*of my voice*  
You shall not  
commit adultery.  
Exodus 20:14

**LORD**  
*of all nations*  
May the peoples praise you,  
God; may all the peoples  
praise you.  
Psalm 67:3

**LORD**  
*of all nations*  
May the peoples praise you,  
God; may all the peoples  
praise you.

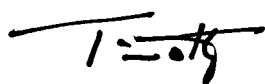
**Dear First Pres,**

Which sticky note sticks with you? As you've faithfully pulled and collected your sticky notes from the "Lord boards" in our halls, which theme—which commandment—has stuck with you and worked within your mind and heart the most this fall?

As we continue our tour through the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, we'll have two opportunities to consider what life looks like with God as Lord of our finances. Money can be a tough place to put God in charge. But I promise you, having God as Lord of our resources is a far better way to live than trying to run things ourselves. Commitment Sunday, on October 28, will be a tangible opportunity to bring our finances before the Lord. The pages of this magazine contain stories of the difference it makes when we do.

I want to thank you, as a church, for your obedience in generosity and ask you to pray about the next faithful step God would have you take as you make Him Lord of your resources.

Yours in Christ,



Tim



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## FIRST PRES MAGAZINE

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# LORD of my resources

## COMMITMENT SUNDAY | OCTOBER 28

Not long after God met Moses on Mt. Sinai and imparted ten life-giving commandments for his people, He called them (in Exodus 35 and following) to construct, out of only the items they had with them in the wilderness, a place where they could worship and where He could meet with them. The people's outpouring of generosity was incredible. The gifts they brought far exceeded the need, and the result was a tabernacle where they could connect with God, literally and figuratively their source of life, during their 40-year wilderness trek.

Part of the rhythm of our worship at First Pres is to spend some time each fall examining our financial lives before the Lord and praying about the next step of obedience God would ask us to take in our giving. When we ask for God's guidance and respond in obedience, we grow in our faith, and we equip our church to move and act in all the ways in which God calls us.

In the next few days, you will receive in the mail a letter with an enclosed card—a tool you can use to reflect on your financial giving and discuss it as a family. Then, as part of our worship on Sunday, October 28, we will bring the cards forward as a marker of our obedience to His call to give.

A local church, operating in strength, becomes a beacon and a fountain of blessing for the city around it. Its vitality can flow far from its physical location to bring hope around the world. Generosity is a strategic factor in establishing a church in strength and health. When God's people give as God calls them to give, the church is set free to do all God has planned for it.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

LORD  
of my resources

### I commit to giving to First Pres in 2019:

per week \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send information on auto bank withdrawal. ☐ Continue auto withdrawal

☐ Request envelopes (NOT necessary unless you give cash and would like to use them)

☐ I (we) have made a commitment for 2019 giving commitment online.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [www.first-pres.org/commitment](http://www.first-pres.org/commitment) to submit your commitment in faith online.

Visit [www.first-pres.org/give](http://www.first-pres.org/give) to set-up your regular giving online.

All financial commitments are confidential and may be adjusted if unforeseen circumstances arise.

### God is calling me to give

### though I don't yet know a total amount.



☐ I've never given before. My commitment is to simply begin giving.

☐ I plan to give \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my 2019 income.

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [www.first-pres.org/commitment](http://www.first-pres.org/commitment) to submit your commitment in faith online.

Visit [www.first-pres.org/give](http://www.first-pres.org/give) to set-up your regular giving online.

All financial commitments are confidential and may be adjusted if unforeseen circumstances arise.

2019

**\*Do not cut out and use this card. You will receive one in the mail, or you can request one at the First Pres Plaza Reception Desk.**



# NEW *Faces,* *Kingdom Work*



## **Rod Gorby**

Organist Rod Gorby joined our Sunday Sanctuary **Worship and Music Team** in July and brings delight week after week as he shares his love

of music with the congregation. Rod has a deep appreciation for the organ and its history: "My first exposure to and experiences with the organ were filled with wonder at its mechanical complexity, expressive potential and its primary use as an instrument to praise God," he explains. "As I learned more about the organ, I became convinced of the divine aspiration of the many historical figures who developed this complex instrument and who crafted its expansive literature."

While many think of the organ as a slow, grand serious instrument, Rod uses it to bring some flair into the worship experience: "I love the wide variety of musical offerings made at First Pres. My own background in music is somewhat broad. For instance, in addition to my classical background, I've played in Army jazz, rock and country ensembles in Europe and in the United States."

Something you might not know is that Rod is a dedicated chess player and plays in high level tournaments. "I was part of a small chess club as a child of military parents in Giessen, Germany," Rod recalls. "That experience was short-lived and I didn't really come across any

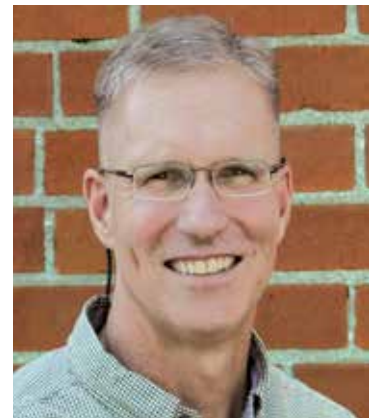
more chess until I found myself serving in the U.S. Army years later. I was determined to make up for lost time with this game through intense study. As a result, I found an amazing intellectual and competitive outlet."

Rod and his wife Mandy are welcome additions to First Pres and have found a comfortable fit in the Colorado lifestyle: "We enjoy hiking with our dogs, and we love that there are so many places to engage in that activity here in Colorado Springs." We're glad to welcome Rod, Mandy and their growing family—son Connor Wolf is due in December!

## **Floyd Sebald**

Heading our new **First Pres Fellows** Colorado Springs Program is Floyd Sebald. His is a familiar name to our congregation

due to his 27-year history with Campus Crusade for Christ for 27 years, 22 of which were spent with our Global Partner organization, Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ. Working with the first generation Church in Mongolia, Floyd and his wife Lynne espoused two great priorities: "To be a true friend to these dear believers and be model of life in Christ; to be faithful to them come what may; and to lay a foundation of Christ Jesus in their lives through His Word."



By Todd Naevestad

Floyd's time in Mongolia was a catalyst for joining First Pres as the Director of the new Fellows Initiative. "[I had] seen in Mongolia the impact a young generation of dedicated Christians can have on their city and even on their nation. What a great Kingdom opportunity it will be to embrace and empower the young dedicated leaders who come to us as First Pres Fellows in their aspirations to glorify Christ."

Before our first cohort of college graduates arrives in fall 2019, Floyd's mission is to engage the congregation in support of these incoming young leaders: "They need our wisdom; they need understanding of Christ. We have a responsibility to invest in the generations behind us and make real relationships with them, so that the Kingdom of God moves forward into the future."

If you are interested in partner with Floyd to invest in our first class of First Pres Fellows through recruiting, reviewing applications, praying, hosting a student in your home, mentoring or providing part-time employment, contact Floyd at [fsebold@first-pres.org](mailto:fsebold@first-pres.org).

## Andy Morrison

Partnership and mutual support between First Pres and Young Life is a rich part of our history. This fall, we're so glad to be partnering with Young Life College and bringing Andy Morrison onto our staff part-time to shape our vision for **College Ministry**. Andy has been shaped by his experience at Young Life's Frontier Ranch summer camp, at the Dale House Project for at-risk youth and at New Covenant Church (Edmond, Oklahoma), working with young

adults: "I have such a sense of calling to work with college students in Colorado Springs—for inviting them into real relationships that discuss faith, identity,



community, and purpose. To me, extending this invitation is intimately connected with sharing my life with them."

Andy continues, "I've been attending First Pres for over nine years now, so it has become a home for our family, and the church community has become like family. As a five-generation church, with leadership focused on our effective engagement as a light to the city, the emphasis on reaching the various and diverse communities of Colorado Springs in real and relevant ways is exciting." Born in Hong Kong, Andy has been around the world, attending boarding school in the UK, playing rugby full-time in New Zealand and attending university in Scotland to study interior architecture. Andy became a Christian through Young Life during the summer before starting his college career. He enjoys staying fit and active, competing in CrossFit and other activities. He's a self-reported movie buff and loves any opportunity to go to the movies or watch films.

Do you know a college student who needs a church home, or would you like to invest in college students? Contact Andy at [amorrison@first-pres.org](mailto:amorrison@first-pres.org).



Photo: Sarah Martin

**H**eather and Aaron Zimmerman have been active at First Pres since 2008. Heather is a former elementary and middle-school math teacher who has served on **MOPS** Ministry Team and is a coordinator for our new **MOMSnex**t program. Aaron is a Financial Advisor and Certified Financial Planner® with a background in economics. He is the newest member of the **First Pres Foundation** Board.

Heather and Aaron met the first day of their freshman year at Oklahoma State University, and they moved to Colorado Springs in 2002, thanks to Aaron's employer. They have two kids, Aspen, 7, and Reece, 5, who both attended First Pres Preschool. As we enter a season of reflection on faith and finances as a church, Heather and Aaron share from their hearts regarding the dynamic relationship between our money and our spiritual lives.

**FPM:** What's a spiritual victory that God has won in your life as you have obeyed Him through financial giving?

**Aaron and Heather:** We would describe the essence of faith in Christ as a deep-seated willingness to follow God fully. We've learned that tithing helps to control the impulses of selfishness and greed that press on all of us. In other words, tithing is a method that enables us to develop self-discipline, a virtue Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 9.

*The essence of  
faith in Christ  
is a deep-seated  
willingness to  
follow God fully*



# The Birds of the Air

AN INTERVIEW WITH HEATHER AND AARON ZIMMERMAN



We've also learned that tithing is closely linked to our role as "stewards," which is an important topic for us. Our "stuff" isn't our own. It's given by God, and we're simply entrusted with it. Over time, God uses this perspective to change our mindsets from constantly wondering, "How am I going to be blessed?" to asking regularly, "How can I be a blessing?" In that sense, tithing moves hearts toward a healthy posture of reliance and focus on God's provision in our life.

From a practical standpoint, living from this posture has forced us to be more disciplined in our budget. Living on less is a big challenge, but budgeting presses us to prioritize our lives. It's actually quite freeing, not restrictive, when we align personal finances with personal values. When Christ is our biggest value, everything else seems small by comparison.

**FPM:** But isn't tithing an outdated idea? Doesn't it feel unrealistic or even impossible in our culture and economy?

**Aaron and Heather:** Sure it can, and we get that. But instead of viewing it as impossible, it's better to ask, "What are my priorities?"

Each of us can see our priorities in our check registers or online bank statements. They are lists of values as much as they are lists of income and expenses. And they are the place to take God up on His challenge to trust Him: There is only one place in Scripture where God urges his followers, "Test me on this." In Malachi 3, God presses hard on the Israelites for "robbing" Him by withholding tithes and offerings: **"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,"**

**says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it'"** (vs. 10).

Unfortunately, this Scripture is oftentimes quoted as a stand-alone. Taken out of context, it can lead us to mentally create a quid-pro-quo expectation with our tithes: "If I tithe, I expect God to ... fill-in-the-blank." This isn't faithfulness, it's self-centeredness. The real reason for tithing is found in Matthew 6:26, the very next book of the Bible, just 7 chapters later. **"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"** Tithing is a recognition that God loves us and promises to care for us—and that frees us to take action in faith.

Pastor and author Erwin McManus puts it this way: What we often want as human beings is for God to meet us in our moments of great faith, but it's actually in our faithfulness where He meets us. It's not accidental that Scripture mentions money more than any other single topic, because it's a place where we can daily place our trust in God and act in faithfulness. And when we do, He meets us with His great provision.

*You can read more from this interview with Heather and Aaron on the First Pres blog throughout the month of October, including how they've found ways to engage their children in important conversations about money and questions they'd recommend for Life Groups to discuss together about living with God as Lord of our Resources. See [first-pres.org/zimmermans](http://first-pres.org/zimmermans).*

# IMPACT

IMPACT: TO HAVE A STRONG EFFECT ON SOMEONE OR SOMETHING

**On Sunday, October 28,** we celebrate God's call on First Pres by bringing forward our giving commitments for 2019 as an act of worship—an act that glorifies God. Here's is a glimpse of how your gifts glorified God and made an impact in 2018. How will God write the First Pres impact story in 2019?

**Future Church Leaders** You raised \$17,698 on First Pres' birthday for the Stevens Fund in the First Pres Foundation to support education and training for future church leaders.



**Guatemala** A new First Pres global mission partnership was forged this year.

**Family Promise** 11 families experiencing homelessness were served by over 95 First Pres volunteers in 2018.

## **First Pres Early Childhood Education**

164 preschoolers are actively engaged at First Pres each week through First Pres and Get Set preschools, MOPS, Sunday School and GTW Kids.



**Life Groups** 44 new Life Groups formed this year, where we are known by name and prayed for—where we study God's Word and share the good news together.

**Compassion International** 595 children are sponsored world-wide by First Pres; we will add even more sponsored kids in the coming months through our new Guatemala partnership.



## **Mongolia**

First Pres global mission partner. Our congregation supports Campus Crusade for Christ Mongolia (CCCM) staff members Gerlee and Bayaraa and their family as Gerlee pursues her Master's degree in Christian Counseling here in Colorado Springs. Palm Sunday's Give Back the Blessing Offering provided \$20,000 to CCCM to translate Family Life couple's group materials into Mongolian.







**Student Ministries** 7 summer camps, 2 Winter Camps, 1 Crud War, 1 Christmas in July, 10 weeks of summer Back Yard Bible Studies, small groups and apologetics classes for over 100 students, dozens of 1-to-1 conversations with students and parents over coffee or a Coke in 2018.



**Cosiloveyou** First Pres provides vital financial support for this City Gospel Movement and more than 400 volunteers for CityServe Weekend.

**First Pres Fellows** We're laying foundations to welcome 12 young adult leaders as part of this new fellowship initiative launching in fall 2019.

**Hope Community Church** Wilmington, North Carolina We cheer on and financially support this ECO church plant, which just celebrated its second birthday, and its pastor, Nate Stratman.



**Egypt** First Pres global mission partner, where we have a longstanding friendship with Heliopolis Christian Church.

**College Ministry** We're partnering with Young Life to bring new focus to First Pres college ministry housed at Café 225, and we're reaching out to 5 Colorado Springs university campuses.



**Family Connections Center at the Helen Hunt Campus** You contributed \$82,378 through Give Back the Blessing to support families at risk.



## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY AT FIRST PRES

By Lindy Keffer

**A**merican culture is funny. Amid our abundance of resources and perhaps an overabundance of “stuff,” many of us feel strapped for cash and stressed out that we’re not financially prepared for the future. Louise Carlson, who facilitates **Financial Peace University**, wants First Pres to be a place where that paradigm changes for many people.

The first step, says Louise, is recognizing where our society’s view on money has gone wrong. Colorado high school graduation requirements may dictate that students receive instruction in financial literacy through their math or social studies courses, but biblical principles for managing money are absent in those spaces. College students arrive on campus armed with a credit card, and they develop habits of charging beer, pizza and the latest smart phone at 24 percent interest. Innovations in Internet purchasing make the family credit card available to teenagers, who become accustomed to having anything they want delivered to their front door within two days. Few are saving enough for retirement, and charitable giving often feels like an impossibility. In a church setting, we can address all of these underlying issues with biblical wisdom.

### Getting Some Help from Dave

At First Pres, Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (FPU) is the first step for many people who want to improve both their thinking and their habits relating to money. Paul Smith and Abe Klassen were instrumental in getting the course started. “It’s a doable program,” explains Louise. “Dave explains what to do, why, and how to do it. He’s blunt and in-your-face and people respond.” A simple—not to be confused with easy—path to financial vitality is laid out in “baby steps.”

People of all ages and circumstances have participated in FPU at First Pres: from high school students to retirees in their 70s. Professionals, self-employed folks, military families, engaged couples, single moms—you name it. Louise particularly remembers a man on probation whose life had been changed by Christ through his participation in **Local Mission Partner** Springs Rescue Mission’s New Life program. A next step for him was to attend FPU at First Pres. “He had a lot of debt,” recalls Louise, “but he was so on fire.”

FPU is currently offered as part of **Growing Together Wednesdays** at First Pres, during both the fall and the winter/spring sessions.



Each evening includes interaction with the FPU workbook and recorded teaching from Dave Ramsey, plus live teaching from leaders of the class. Supplemental instruction on healthcare, investing and funding for college is incorporated into the course.

One benefit of participating in the course is inclusion in a community that will encourage you as you work hard to change habits, beat debt and move toward financial health. Louise is sometimes stopped in the hallways on Sundays by former FPU participants who want to check in with their progress: “We’re still on track,” they’ll proudly report. “And one First Pres couple got to do the ‘debt free scream,’ on Dave’s radio show,” she mentions with a smile.

### **A Lifestyle of Generosity**

Though giving is the topic of the final class video, Dave says giving comes *first* in the budget. At First Pres’s FPU, talk about biblical giving includes, “the tithe, the poor and cheerful or hilarious giving.”

We begin by putting God first with ten percent giving as our goal, and it reigns in our spending and orders our whole life in a healthier way. Louise tells the story of two young men who participated in FPU: “They didn’t realize how much they were spending on food, but when they got their budget under control, they both lost 20 pounds.”

Next, we turn our thoughts to “the poor”—giving that helps us to really see our neighbors and meet tangible needs in our communities.

Finally, when giving becomes a deeply engrained habit, we embark on hilarious giving. “It’s not for the purpose of garnering a tax writeoff. It’s anonymous. It’s fun,” says Louise. She remembers a young man who knew that a couple in his church were foster parenting three teenagers, and they were spent. He secretly gifted them a night at the Broadmoor Hotel and never told them it was

from him: “That’s hilarious giving.” It’s a way of living that may not seem possible when you’re mired in debt, but the purposeful plan and practical support accessible to everyone through Financial Peace University makes it possible.

*Our next Financial Peace University begins January 9 with the next session of Growing Together Wednesdays. Scholarships are available. Call Discipleship Ministries at 884-6117 with questions.*



**DAVE'S SEVEN  
BABY STEPS  
TO  
FINANCIAL  
FREEDOM**

1. Save \$1,000 to start an emergency fund.
2. Pay off all debt using the debt snowball method.
3. Save three to six months of expenses for emergencies.
4. Invest 15 percent of your household income into Roth IRAs and pre-tax retirement funds.
5. Save for your children's college fund.
6. Pay off your home early.
7. Build wealth and give.



# SAVE THESE DATES

October 22 > Christmas Joy tickets on sale in the Plaza  
October 28 > Commitment Sunday  
November 1 > Something Significant for Christmas  
January 27 > Vision Sunday  
January 28-31 > ECO National Gathering at First Pres  
February 1-3 > High School Winter Camp: Registration now open  
February 15-17 > Middle School Winter Camp: Registration now open



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