



The Visitor

...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6-8

First United Methodist Church
209 West 1st Street Reno, NV 89501
"The Visitor" published monthly

FEBRUARY 2010
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2

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HELP FOR HAITI

Dear United Methodist Friends,
United Methodist Communications is working to provide timely and relevant information about how The United Methodist Church is responding to the tragic earthquake in Haiti and how United Methodists can support these efforts. United Methodist have had a long-standing relationship with Haiti through the Methodist Church of Haiti.

The United Methodist News Service posted an initial story soon following the tragedy and will have ongoing coverage about the United Methodist mission teams that are in Haiti, response efforts by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and what local churches are doing to provide aid. Stay tuned to <http://www.umc.org/> for more information.

Support for relief efforts can be made to Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325. 100% of gifts to UMCOR through the Advance support the designated project.
-United Methodist Communications

Over \$3000 was given for Haiti earthquake relief through UMCOR the first Sunday after the disaster struck. Thank you! UMCOR will be in Haiti for a long time and we will send other monies as they are given. The Church Council decided that we will honor "Human Relations" Day early in May.

THE "LACK OF TALENT SHOW" IS BACK!

First Church is once again searching for those of you who have demonstrated a lack of talent. That's right, **the Lack of Talent Show** is once again rearing it's ugly head. Mark your calendars, Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 PM, we talent challenged folks will gather in the Fellowship Hall for fun, frivolity and certainly a lot of laughter. Please bring a potluck dish of some sort, we prefer *some* talent be used for this portion of the activity, please.

In the past there have been acts ranging from a very tacky "Lards of the Dance", delightfully quirky presentations from our Bell Choir to some incredibly good music provided by Michael Cleveland and company. There have been solo acts, group acts, family acts and even the Second Chapter of Acts. We are looking for both ends of the spectrum, and all points in between, and no act will be refused, within reason of course. The goal is to get together with friends to eat, laugh and enjoy ourselves at each other's expense.

If you are so inclined, or reclined for that matter, please respond to Gary Ray at garyray2@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your support and participation in this hootinanny of an activity. -Gary Ray

JUDITH'S JOURNAL

Here we are ready to begin a new season in the church year on February 17. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which is 40 days in length, not counting Sundays (always little days of resurrection.) My kids always figured that meant if they gave something up for Lent, Sundays didn't count!

However you count the 40 days, we remember that we are invited to follow Jesus' example of withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. So Lent is a time for introspection, repentance and prayer. Lent is also a good time to delve into scripture; as a congregation we will work our way through Mark's gospel reading two chapters each week. Mark's gospel was the first to be written down, it's the shortest and it focuses more on what Jesus *did* than what he said. So here's your reading assignment:

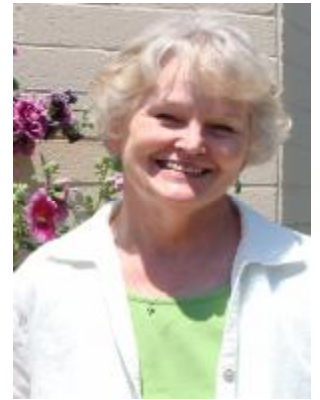
February 21: Mark 1 & 2
 February 28: Mark 3 & 4
 March 7: Mark 5 & 6
 March 14: Mark 7 & 8
 March 21: Mark 9 & 10
 March 28: Mark 11-14 (Palm/Passion Sunday)
 April 4: Mark 15 & 16 (Easter)

On **Palm Sunday** the 10:00 AM service will begin across the street in the park with the other downtown churches. We are hoping to have a live donkey or two, wave palm branches and march to our churches. More information will be forthcoming, as we get closer to the date.

On **Good Friday** our downtown churches are also planning to visit various modern day "Stations of the Cross" in the downtown area beginning at noon. If you would like to help with the planning of this powerful witness, we will meet on Saturday Feb. 6 10:00 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Let me know if you are coming!

May the power of the Risen Christ be present in our lives this Lent.

Faithfully,
Judith



Upcoming Sermons/*Scriptures

February 7

"Believing With Your Heart"
 Romans 10:5-15

February 14

"Compassionate Community"
 Mark 1:40-45

February 21

Mark 1 & 2

February 28

Mark 3 & 4

Stephen Ministry Program

The 10% for Missions from the Capital Campaign" has awarded \$500 to restart the Stephen Ministry program in our congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained lay people who work one-on-one with those in difficult situations: loss of job, loss of loved one, divorce, illness or other life circumstances. Evelyn Grupe has agreed to go to Portland in February to be trained as a trainer for our congregation. She will work closely with Pastor Judith Bither who has been a trained leader in three former congregations.



COME JOIN US FOR A DAY WITH BISHOP
ROBERT SCHNASE, AUTHOR OF *FIVE
PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS*

This three-part workshop will give us a brief overview of the Five Practices, explain how congregations move toward excellence and fruitfulness, and teach us how to "practice" the Mission of the Church.

Nevada-Sierra District 15th Annual Leadership Training Day

Saturday, March 6, 2010 at South Reno UMC

8-9 AM checking in & late registration, 9-9:30 opening/worship, 9:30-12:30 Plenary: Bishop Schnase,
12:30-1:30 Lunch, 1:30-3:30 Plenary: Bishop Schnase, 3:30-4:00 closing/worship

.5 Clergy CEU Credits (Spiritual Formation, Disciple Making, or Professional Competency Dev.)
Lay Speaker Refresher Course Credit

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.
COST IS \$20 (\$25 AFTER JANUARY 31)

FAMILY PROMISE (IHN) HOSTING

For those new folks, we are part of an interfaith program that assists families that are homeless. We provide temporary housing in the churches for one week at a time. We keep the guests at night and supply them dinner, a continental breakfast and a sack lunch. The families spend the daytime at work, school and the Family Promise Day Center. Staff at the center assists the families in finding work, daycare and permanent housing.

We will be hosting the IHN families from February 28 to March 7. As usual we'll need volunteers to act as overnight hosts. We also need volunteers to bring dinner, and food items for breakfast and lunch. Please look for the sign up board in the fellowship hall or call me at 827-2672 or by e-mail pbengtso@charter.net.

We also have good news. We have a family moving into permanent housing the first of February and they have very little furniture or household goods. If you have anything you would like to donate please call Ray at Family Promise 284-5566
-Patti Bengtson

FIRST QUILTERS 2010

QUILTERS are preparing for our annual retreat, to take place in the first week of February, the 5th & 6th. We begin on the morning of Friday, the 5th by coming to FUMC Fellowship Hall, prepared to begin our project. We bring our sewing machines, materials, food for three meals, sleeping bags, and music to entertain us as we work on our project.

Anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome, either as a participant or just to see what is going on. We will have some beautiful items to dazzle you!
-Kay Greene

Operating Budget Report as of December 31, 2009

| | | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|---------|----------|---------------------|
| Income | \$35,251 | \$318,780 |
| Expense | \$20,657 | \$301,733 |
| Balance | \$14,594 | \$17,047 |

Operating Fund bank balance - \$34,517
Income year-to-date includes \$5,590 in funds
donated, either as part
of authorized Capital Campaign funds
or other designated giving.

Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and transformation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

Open to members of any Christian denomination, the Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation, they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant, and in God's time the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

In our area, the following Emmaus Walks are scheduled:

- April 22-25: Men's Walk - Grass Valley UMC, Grass Valley, CA
- May 6-9: Women's Walk - Grass Valley UMC, Grass Valley, CA
- July 22-25: Men's Walk - Carson Valley UMC, Gardnerville, NV
- Aug. 12-15: Women's Walk - Carson Valley UMC, Gardnerville, NV

Applications for these Walks are available on the Emmaus Community Website at: www.ncnec.org

To request a brochure about the Walk to Emmaus, contact The Upper Room at 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7227 (toll-free).

-Helen Nolte

VISITOR MAILING UPDATE

The office is trying to update the delivery list for the monthly Visitor. Updates can be made on the sign in forms from the Sunday services if you put an E, M or P on the form by your name. (email, mail, pick up on Sunday). You can also call the office at 322-4564.

Thanks!

-Office Staff

Promise Cards

If you were unable to turn in your Promise Card on January 17, IT'S NOT TOO LATE. Please return your completed form to the church by mail or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you.

-The Stewardship Committee



Church Council Report

We are off and running with a new council in 2010. As we gathered we realized we are missing ministry opportunities in some vital areas. Perhaps God is nudging you to serve—to give of your time and talent—in a specific area!

We are looking for persons interested in serving in the following:

Radical Hospitality (welcoming new members)

Intentional Faith Development (two groups, one for children and the other for adults)

Passionate Worship (to work with the pastor in planning worship, altar décor and more)

If you have an interest in any of these areas of ministry, please speak with the pastor or Barbara Drake, chair of the Council.

NEWS FROM YOUTH GROUP

Happy February!

While shivering though the storms of Winter, it's hard to believe that Spring is just around the corner. After the rush of the holidays, MYF has settled down quite a bit. We continue to meet each Wednesday night for food and fun! The third Wednesday of each month our group meets with the Youth Group from First Congregational Church. We have a group of about 20 youth and it is always a lot of fun. We alternate churches every month and in February we will be meeting at First Congregational Church, 627 Sunnyside Drive. You can find us in the Fireside Room on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. for Sunday School. This month the Youth will be ushering on Sunday, February 28th. If you know a young person in grades 7 thru 12, please encourage them to join us! See Gary and Jackie if you need more information. Thank you to the Lowe, Legg, Berry, English, Frezzitte and Wong-Stuart families for their help with Youth Group. A special thank you also goes to Catie and Dan Harrison for helping out with Wednesday Nights!

In His Hands,

Gary and Jackie



Chancel Choir Invitation

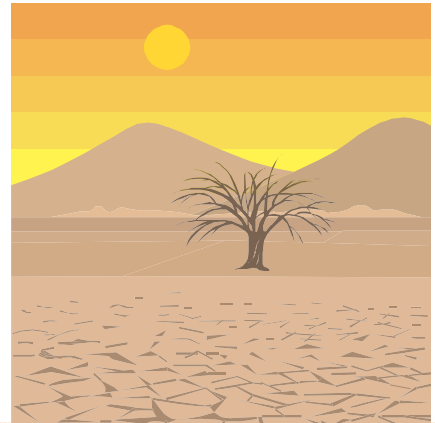
Don't forget that FUMC Chancel Choir is open to **everyone**, so please consider joining us or just stopping in to check it out! We rehearse in the upstairs choir room at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and we'd love to have you join us in singing or just to visit and observe. The Chancel Choir is a fun and meaningful way to participate in our FUMC church life.

If you have any questions, call Cheryl Shingler at 826-2412.

DROP IN THE BUCKET

The Drop In the Bucket program received the following thank you note: "Thanks for all your help during the 2009 Community Gift Wrap Program. With your help we donated over \$40,000 and wrapped 50,610 packages. We couldn't have done it without you! See you next year - Amazon.com" Drop In the Bucket volunteers raised over \$400 from our efforts one Sunday afternoon in November .

-Richard Drath



THE FELLOWSHIP OF METHODIST WOMEN (FMW)

will be meeting on February 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Patti Bengtson. We will be continuing the discussion of "The Sacred Art of Loving Kindness". All are welcome. If you need more information or directions please call Patti Bengtson at 827-2672. (Please note the change in location of the meeting) -Patti Bengtson

Book Group

meets the last Monday of each month, usually in members' homes. We will meet on Monday, February 22 at 7:00 P M at the home of Julie Bingham. Our title for discussion is **The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story** by Diane Ackerman. Discussion will be led by Pat Smith. If you are interested in exploring this reading group and for more information and directions to Julie's home, please email Mary Ann McKibben at mckibben9@charter.net or phone 345-7507. -Mary Ann McKibben

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who donated money, toys and wrapping paper for the children's party this year. Over 400 gifts were given to needy children.

-Marilyn Hewitt and family

Thank you for your kindness in assisting with the disadvantaged families this holiday season. As you may be aware, The Salvation Army has been meeting the needs of the people in Nevada for over 115 years, and your generosity was used to help make it happen.

We were able to assist over 6,000 children with toys this Christmas Season and you assisted The Salvation Army in putting food on many tables and smiles on thousands of children's faces. -Barbara Kennedy, Salvation Army Corporate Angel Tree Coordinator

February Birthdays!

February Anniversaries!



| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Tom Berry | |
| Floyd Brown | Linda Brown |
| Jim Case | Val Chappel |
| Virla Coddington | Jerrel Combs |
| Becky Earl | Dorothy Ebberts |
| Joyce Feist | Marge Finn |
| Ira Greene Sr | Dorothy Griffen |
| Anna Helmreich | Barbara Jones |
| Virginia Legg | Paul Lowe |
| Ann-Mary MacLeod | Paula McDonough |
| Jacqueline Meadows | Belle Mecham |
| Joy Meeuwig | Michael Meeuwig |
| Barbara Nachtsheim | Helen Nolte |
| Jamie Olander | Julee Olander |
| Maggie Olander | Jennifer Reid |
| Jeanne Reitz | Ronald Reitz |
| Jim Roberts | Bob Streje |
| Bill Trimmer | |

Alice & Orin Morgan



Volunteers!

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Susan Allen | Denise Hedrick |
| Cherie Balik | Dale Hicks |
| Carol Barr | Erv Horton |
| Patti Bengtson | Bruce Lerner |
| Susan Bergman | Phyllis Mattingly |
| Linda Brown | Elaine Moser |
| Janet Butler | Dave Roundtree |
| Jim Case | Jackie Ruffin |
| Jody Conn | Katie Salo |
| Barbara Drake | Ruth Schulz |
| Ralph Drake | Virginia Shattuck |
| Richard Drath | Dave Shintani |
| Betty Dukes | Gwen |
| Janice Emerson | Shonkwiler |
| John Emerson | George Smith |
| Joyce Feist | David Smith |
| Norma Frook | Jeff Spalin |
| Denis Graham | Jay Stuart |
| Evelyn Grupe | Barbara Trimmer |
| Patti Hampton | Jeannie Westin |
| Dale Hampton | Nancy Wong |
| Zona Hargrove | Elizabeth Wong |
| Dennis Harms | |

Apel Family Update from "Down Under"

Dear church family: Rob's contract has been extended until June 2010. We've decided to stay on in Perth, as his company has reduced their staff in the Reno office to just one geologist. There's a lot of work here, although for Rob it's kind of boring. Sydney and Billy are mostly happy, have some good friends and do a lot of music and scouts and sports. I'm very happy myself – Perth is a bit of undiscovered paradise. Ur doors are open for visitors – please come to see us!

-Deborah Apel and family





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 "The Visitor" published monthly

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The deadline for submitting articles into the
 March Visitor is **Tuesday, February 15**

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Ministers:

The People of First United Methodist Church
 Pastor-in-Charge: The Reverend Judith A. Bither
 Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend John Emerson
 Financial Administrator: Shirley McKim
 Administrative Assistant: Cindy Owen
 Director of Children's Ministries: TBA
 Director of Youth Ministries: Gary and Jackie Ray
 Nursery Care Worker: Jessa Wagner
 Director of Music: Cheryl Shingler
 Chancel Choir Director: Andy Sonnemaker
 Choir Director Emeritus: Michael Cleveland
 Hand Bell Choir Directors: Linda and Ben Brown
 Wedding Coordinator: Sue Roberts
 Custodians: Jim Gerbel and Jose Franco
 VISITOR Reporters: The People of FUMC



First United Methodist Church

Office hours Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm

Sunday Worship services are at 8:00 and 10:00 am.
 Sunday School is at 9:00 am

Pastor in charge—**The Reverend Judith A. Bither**
 Newsletter Editor: Cindy Owen and Office Volunteers