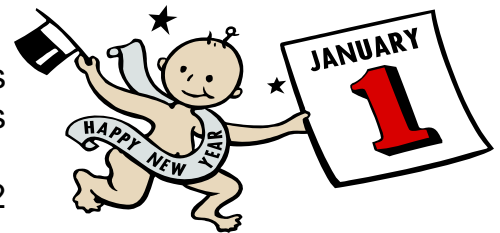


...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? -Micah 6-8

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

Season of Epiphany
Advent, the four Sundays
leading up to Christmas is
the beginning of the



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Christian year. That is followed by 12
days of Christmas (beginning on

December 25 and ending on January 6 at noon.) Then we are in the
season of **Epiphany**. Sometimes called 12th day, it's the festival of the
Three Kings, celebrated in many countries as the giving of gifts that
are brought (not by Santa), but by the kings. Children leave their shoes
(instead of stockings) filled with hay for the camels. Gifts are left in
their shoes. The color for Epiphany is green for new growth. The gos-
pel lessons focus on the young life of Jesus: his baptism, time in the
temple and some of his early ministry. On the first Sunday of Epiphany
(January 10) you will be given a new "word" for the season! And on the
17th you will return your promise cards of how you will give your gifts to
our church. -Judith

NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Cycles of Discipleship

As we welcome in the New Year, we also begin our second year of the Cycles of Discipleship stewardship program. When the Stewardship Committee introduced this program, we did so with the conviction that First United Methodist Church was ready to move forward to a new way of thinking of stewardship. Instead of only focusing on stewardship as a once- a -year obligation, we proposed to make stewardship a way of life; a yearlong celebration of God's generosity in our lives. We renewed our commitment to follow the challenge of Jesus Christ to live as God planned, and to use all the gifts that God has given us to the best of our ability.

Throughout 2009, in spite of difficult economic times you, members and friends of First United Methodist Church have excelled in the grace of giving. You have embraced the challenge to trust that "God can and will take care of me" by giving generously of your time, talents, and treasures. You have held fast to the belief that giving is a privilege, an outward expression of our thankfulness and appreciation for the God whose love knows no limits.

The second year of Cycles of Discipleship begins January 1, 2010. Each of you will be asked to submit a new Promise card for 2010. These will be mailed to you prior to the first Sunday in January 2010 and will also be available at the Church. Promise cards will be received during the services on January 17, 2010.

It takes us all to insure that First United Methodist Church continues to be the vital force it is in our lives, in our community and the world. Think about the blessings that are yours because you came to be a part of this congregation. Remember those blessings as you prayerfully prepare for this New Year.

Patricia Artis

JUDITH'S JOURNAL

New Year's resolutions have been on my mind as they are at the end of every year. Three years ago I joined a local gym with the intention of getting exercise at least three times a week. The three-year membership included a couple of sessions with a personal trainer and I took advantage of those! That was the last time I went to the gym although the monthly fee was taken from my checkbook each month. After injuring my back in November, it became very clear that exercise has to be at the top of my "to do" list.

I have lots of good intentions at the beginning of every New Year that fizzle out before January is over. I am trying to be more realistic this year with my time and my energy. What is God calling me to do with my time? What is God's desire for me to take better care of my body and spirit? If I can view New Year's resolutions as spiritual disciplines that honor God, I just might be able to keep them more fully.

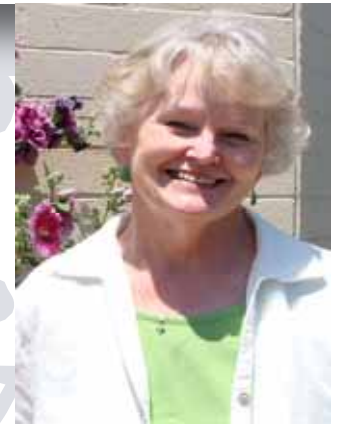
So once again I make a few resolutions for 2010. Here are my *good intention resolutions*:

- Practice 15 minutes of Spanish at least every other day
- Walk Arlo (my dog) thirty minutes at least five days a week
- Pray more, snack less, drink more water and less coffee
- Find a reasonable exercise program to strengthen my core

I am very energized about some of the new beginnings at Reno First for 2010. We're looking at getting our Stephen Ministry back up and going, the food pantry ministry is more fully funded and better organized to feed the hungry, we have new leadership for the Church Council who will begin working for and with you, as we finish our review of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations".

God has richly blessed us with so many talented and generous members. May we honor God in the choices we make each day of how we spend our time, which is literally how we live our lives one day at a time!

Faithfully,
Judith



Upcoming Sermons/*Scriptures

January 3

"Coming Home to God"
Jeremiah 31: 7-14

January 10

"Living in the Light"
Matthew 2:1-12

January 17

"New Wine in Old Washbasins"
John 2:1-11

January 24

"A Preoccupation with the Periphery"
Luke 4:14-210

January 31

"Wise as Serpents and Gentle as Doves"
Matthew 10:5-16

Are You a Trained Stephen Minister?

Our church would like to have an active Stephen Ministry once again. Many members were trained, participated in the Ministry in the past and are knowledgeable about the way in which the program functioned. As we plan to reactivate the Ministry, it would be most helpful to have input about the successes and concerns with the previous program and suggestions for ways we could improve this valuable support for our church members.

On **January 31, following coffee hour after the 10:00 service**, trained ministers are invited to attend a brunch in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an opportunity for you to share your observations of our previous program and offer suggestions for a future Ministry. All input is welcomed and indeed sought. If you could attend would you please call Rev. Bither (322-4564) or Evelyn Grupe (747- 7230) and let us know you'd like to participate.

Thanks you for offering your help.

-Evelyn Grupe

DROP IN THE BUCKET

In December, the Fellowship of Methodist Women made a generous donation of \$500 to support the Drop In the Bucket program and commended the team of volunteers for a job well done.

During the month of October, physical therapists around the state of Nevada collected and donated peanut butter and jelly for the Food Banks of Nevada. Thanks to our own Susan Allen, the Renown Health Physical Therapists and their patients donated a supply of PB & J to Drop In the Bucket!

On Sunday, November 29th, several volunteers spent five hours wrapping holiday gifts at the amazon.com warehouse in Fernley to raise funds to support the Drop In the Bucket budget. The final amount was not available as of press time for the Visitor, but all funds will make a significant difference in our ability to serve the community. -Richard Drath

FAMILY PROMISE

What a challenging week we had -- beginning with the ice and snow storm on Sunday, Dec. 6 and ending again shoveling snow on Sunday Dec. 13. We were blessed with the best ever volunteers as some snow bound volunteers had to cancel. Our dinner hosts were Barbara Trimmer, Yvonne Woods & family, Barbara Drake (by herself as the original group scheduled were snowed in), Chesley & friends, Gwen Shonkwiler with St Paul's bible study group, Evelyn Grupe and Sandy LeSourd, Bob & Barbara Nachtsheim & family, Margo Chappel & Kurt Fonken, Pat Artis & boys and Nancy Ritchie. Our overnight hosts were Kay Greene, Barbara Drake, Priscilla Barton, Jeff Spalin, Judi Jensen, Paul Lowe, Sam Limerick, David Shintani, Merry Sylvester, Jay Stuart, Nancy Wong, Zona Hairgrove (by herself as Mary King was snowed in.) Gwen Shonkwiler made breakfast on Sat. morning and delivered food from St. Pauls. David & Debbie Smith helped set up and Zona alone was in charge of clean up as the Smiths and I were snowed in.

Jay Stuart came to rescue a couple of times when I couldn't get to the church to open up and also helped shovel snow. Jim Gerbel and Jose Franco were there several times to help with the snow and then the flood in one of the basement bathrooms and the water leak in the kitchen.

We have a wonderful congregation that comes together when times are tough!! Thank you for your service.

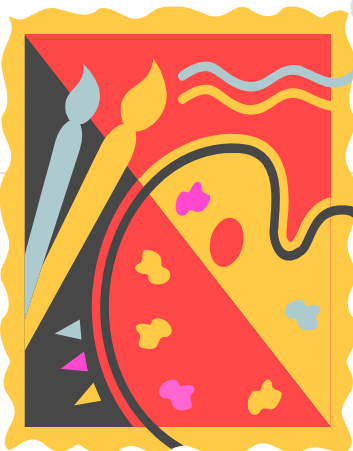
-Patti Bengtson

ARTOWN JULY 2010

Yes, it is time to start planning for Artown in July! All who are interested are invited to attend. We line up a calendar of events at FUMC and we look for ways to augment our funding. Please join us and bring your ideas! If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Shingler at 826-2412.

Meeting Date: Jan 9, 2010 at 9:30 am in the back office of FUMC.

-Cheryl Shingler



Operating Budget Report as of November 30, 2009

		<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$29,035	\$283,529
Expense	\$29,244	\$281,076
Balance	< \$ 209 >	\$ 2,453

Operating Fund bank balance - \$8,749

Income year-to-date includes \$3,810 in funds donated, either as part of authorized Capital Campaign funds or other designated giving.

2009 Apportionments paid to date	\$38,444
Apportionments paid to date in 2008	\$26,226
Apportionments due through end of year	\$18,453

We Need Your Help

On January 10, 2010, the Stewardship Committee will be presenting a slide show highlighting the ministries of our church. We are asking for pictures that have been taken during the past year. These need to be submitted as soon as possible to Patti Bengtson in high resolution on a disc, email or thumb drive. Patti's email address is pbengtso@charter.net.

Count Your Blessings!

These are the things our church said you were thankful for on Thanksgiving Sunday in November:

- 92: family, friends; some were specific about a spouse, children or grandchildren.
- 36: Reno First UMC; some were specific about people or programs, but most just said for all that this church means in my life. Some listed "faith".
- 20: The whole wide world: some named "trees", clean air, etc.
- 19: Good health or good health of families
- 5: Living in this country with our freedom
- 2: Pie: guess what the women were selling during Fellowship!
- 1: Moving to Reno
- 1: Leaving Reno
- 1: Unexpected surprises
- 1: Lesson learned during my lifetime

Note to Self: Get Help!

Many of you know that on the morning of the Church Conference (Nov. 22) I woke up to a flood in the parsonage kitchen. Without thinking I pulled the double-wide frig from the wall where the hose to the ice maker was leaking. I was already suffering from a sore back and this moved me to earning a herniated disk!

Thanks to everyone for your understanding during this time of healing. Thanks to those who stepped in with preaching, brought meals, shoveled snow, cleaned litter boxes, took out trash, went shopping, brought flowers, gave me a gift of a healing massage, took my puppy for a week...and for the dozens who said "call if you need anything" and I knew you meant it! So thanks to Jim, Gary, Foofie, Mike, Dale, Patti, Donna, Sam, Mary Jean, Len, Erv, Ruth, Ron, John and Pat and all who emailed and called with your prayers. This will heal and I will be back up to full steam in the New Year!

Eternally grateful,

Judith

Going with Flo—Children's Ministries



Parting is such sweet sorrow... old but true words. I am moving to Virginia Christmas week to live close to my daughter's family in Charlottesville. I hope to be of some help and also enjoy being closer to family for awhile in 2010. I came to FUMC 2+ years ago with the plan to stay for 2 years as I worked as the Young Lives Teen Moms coordinator and Children's Director. I leave with many rich wonderful friendships and memories. I am a 66 yr old Senior who is going to enjoy semi retirement as I will seek to work only one part time employment position and be assistance to my family in Virginia for a time.

I will be returning occasionally to the West Coast and sometimes Reno so I will stop in for visits. I will be actively praying for First United Methodist Church and the wonderful Children's team that shows up to love God and children every Sunday downstairs.

With love for you all—Flo Tinsley

My mail address is PO Box 3663 Sparks NV 89432 cell (530) 681 0725 email:

flotinsley@sbcglobal.net

NEWS FROM YOUTH GROUP

Happy New Year!

It's so hard to believe that another year has come and gone! December brought a lot of snow which had the Youth shuffling to get ready for their bake sale. We postponed the sale one week due to the weather but came back with a flurry and put on a great sale. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year. We really count on your support to make our program run! Besides our regular activities, the Youth Group braved the cold and went ice skating. Jackie served hot chocolate and cookies to everyone when they got off the ice. Hats off to everyone who skated - some for the first time! The Youth also volunteered as gift wrappers at Borders and Barnes and Noble to earn money for our mission trip. Thanks to the Lowes, the Wong-Stuarts and the English's for helping wrap gifts. The Youth Group took some time off in December during Christmas Break but will be back in the swing of things this month! If you know a young person in grades 7 through 12, please encourage them to join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for some fun and fellowship and on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. for Sunday School. Lastly, we wish everyone a joyful, prosperous and healthy New Year!

In His Hands,
Gary and Jackie



2010 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Please mark your calendar for the 2010 Women's Retreat at Zephyr Point Conference Center. The event has been moved ahead one week and will take place September 24-26, 2010. More information will be available and reservations will be requested in an August time frame. Any questions regarding the weekend can be directed to Donna Quante at 825-4322 or by email at dsq1@nvcbell.net. -Donna Quante



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)

Simplicity Group will meet the first Thursday in January at 7 pm at the home of Foofie Faulstich. We'll be discussing November & December from Simple Abundance. So mark your calendars for January 7 at 7!

Writer's Group will meet Thursday, January 14, at 1:30 pm in Judith's office.

Book Group will meet January 25th at 7:00 pm. The book is "The Basque Hotel" or "Sweet Promised Land" by Robert Laxalt. The hostess is Donna Quante.

FIRST QUILTERS

First Quilters want to express our gratitude for the reception our sale of quilted products received on 11/22/09. Everyone was so enthusiastic of the items we had for sale, that we had practically nothing left!

We earned \$949.00 for our efforts and your generosity. We will use those funds to support a program of FUMC. The last few years it has been Drop in The Bucket, but we decide each year how to spend our funds. The rest we use to support our activities, such as a roll of 40 yards of batting that we all use. We have also purchased some of the display racks in Fellowship Hall (some have been donated). The rest of the materials that we use come from our individual collections, except for Young; she uses the scraps from the rest of us to make new creations as well as materials from her large "stash".

We will continue to use our creative powers to make new things and we welcome anyone who would like to join us. It doesn't matter if you have never quilted before. We were all in that position at the beginning and we will help you get started.

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month in the Fellowship Hall, beginning about 9:00 AM. and going on until 2 or 3 PM or until we get tired.

-Kay Greene

Adult Volunteers Needed for Baby Clothes Closet

The Young Lives Teen Moms Baby Clothes Closet needs adult volunteers from our church to help out. Donations for baby clothes can be left in the office.

2:00 pm

Tong



January Birthdays!

- Susan Bergman
- Frank Brendle
- Dorothy Button
- Kendrick Combs
- Jay Earl
- James Ellis
- Sam Gay
- Betty Hartman
- Erv Horton
- Sandra LeSourd
- Ed MacMillan
- Mike Malody Jr.
- Ilaisaane Maveni
- Doug McCoy
- Macy Rains-Schoenfeldt
- Katie Salo
- Ruth Schulz
- Virginia Shattuck
- Ruth Stacy

January Anniversaries!

- George and Leann Bennett
- Bill and Jackie Berrum
- Jim and Margaret Ellis
- Candy and Dal Hunter
- Julee and Peter Olander
- Jeanne and Ronald Reitz
- Keith and Virginia Shriver

Memorials & Living Tributes

A gift has been given to the Memorial Fund by Ruth Schulz in honor of Len and Mary Jean Overholser's 50th wedding anniversary.

Holiday Greetings

Our lives are enriched by memories from our years among you at First United Methodist Church in Reno. We treasure the gift of those years more than any "thing" that might show up beneath a Christmas tree. We take this opportunity to greet ALL of you and EACH of you. Celebrate with us the wisdom of Helen Keller: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." God has allowed us to touch God's heart in the Child who comes among us again and again and again. "Shalom to you now, shalom, dear friends. May God's full mercies bless you, dear friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom." (Hymn 666)

Merry Christmas,
Bob and Carol Olmstead



VOLUNTEERS!

- Barry Peterson
- Barbara Trimmer
- Betty Dukes
- Virginia Shattuck
- Elizabeth Wong
- Nancy Wong
- David Nolde
- Dave Roundtree
- Mary King
- Linda Brown
- Elaine Moser
- Joyce Feist
- Phyllis Mattingly
- Robert Day
- Janice Emerson
- Bruce Lerner
- Chesley Spring
- Darlene Luster
- David Antonuccio
- Joey Antonuccio
- Gwen Shonkwiler
- Evelyn Grupe
- Dave Shintani
- Jeff Spalin
- Zona Hairgrove
- Debbie Smith
- Jim Gerbel
- Dale Hampton
- Dale Hicks
- Katie Solo
- Cherie Balik
- Tamsen Douglas
- Jay Stuart
- Jim Case
- Ruth Schulz
- Erv Horton
- George Smith
- Susan Bergman
- Richard Drath
- Carol Barr
- Patti Bengtson
- Denis Graham
- David Loder
- Janet Butler
- Patti Hampton
- Barbara Drake
- Susan Allen
- Judi Jensen
- Katie Salo
- Yvonne Woods
- Norma Froom
- Jackie Ruffin
- Kate Walker
- Merry Sylvester
- Priscilla Barton
- Paul Lowe
- David Smith
- St. Paul's UMC
- Jose Franco
- Denis Graham
- Judith Bither
- Ron Applegate
- Earlene Douglas
- Anonymous laundry volunteers

New Member Meeting
Interested in becoming a member of FUMC? There will be a meeting Sunday, January 10 at 8:45 in the Parlor.

First United Methodist Church
209 West 1st Street Reno, NV 89501



Phone: 775-322-4564
Fax: 775-322-0285
E-mail: renofirst@gbis.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The deadline for submitting articles into the
February Visitor is **Friday, January 15**

We're on the Web!
www.RenoFirstMethodist.org



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: Flo Tinsley
Director of Youth Ministries: Gary and Jackie Ray
Nursery Care Worker: Katherine Stromer
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—
Established 1868**

Office hours Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm

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

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