



The Visitor

MARCH 2010
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First United Methodist Church
209 West 1st Street Reno, NV 89501
"The Visitor" published monthly

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...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

Lent 2010 at First UMC

Palm Sunday (March 28) Gather in Wingfield Park with the other congregations from Trinity Episcopal, Good Shepherd Lutheran and St. Thomas Aquinas.

There will be a joint anthem by all four choirs, a Litany for the Procession of the Palms, then a procession with a donkey to the various churches. Our children are busy making palms and we still need a banner with the name of our church. Meet at the park at 10:00 and we will return to the sanctuary about 10:15 for the rest of our service.

Maundy Thursday (April 1) Soup supper at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall followed by communion around the tables. Volunteers are needed to make the soup; call the church office if you can help! This is a service for children, youth and adults--the whole church family!

Good Friday (April 2) Two services:

Noon service with other downtown church walking The Stations of the Cross. We will stop at various "stations" around the downtown such as the court house, City Hall, Harrah's, Bus station with prayer and scriptures at each stop. We will process in silence or with quiet singing. Meet in the court yard of our church and plan to spend one and one-half hours or join us at any point along the route.

The second service will be at 7:00PM in the sanctuary and will include stripping the chancel. Readers are needed for a dramatic reading. Please see Zona Hairgrove or Pastor Judith Bither to offer your services!

Easter (April 4th--Daylight Saving Time begins!)

*8:00 AM Early Service (Brief and without music)

*9:30 and 11:00 AM: Traditional Services that will include music by our choir and communion

*1:00 PM: Tongan Worship in the sanctuary with communion

JUDITH'S JOURNAL



I owe another word of thanks for those who helped me before and after my back surgery on January 27. Thank you to former pastors Jacquie Meadows and John Emerson for preaching and leading worship the two Sundays after the surgery. It was good to know that the congregation was in capable hands!

In the almost eleven weeks leading up to the surgery I tried to journal my thoughts about living with such constant pain. Even that was difficult because sitting was so painful. I found that I was short on patience and I would tell myself that it was the pain speaking. Once the surgery was scheduled several people warned me about back surgeries and urged me to get a second opinion. I explained that I already had more than two! When I returned to worship to preach on February 14 I was surprised by how many people told me it was nice that I was no longer grimacing! Good to know!

But what really surprised me was how many people had "horror stories" about back surgeries to share with me—some of their own and some of friends or family. I want to thank you for not sharing those stories with me before my own surgery. Of course I already had a few of those stories under my own belt after sitting by so many hospital beds over the years. But it really helped me to focus on the success stories, including the one by the surgeon who had the same surgery himself! I was told that for most people this was a "miracle surgery" and I would be out of pain immediately. That turned out to be true for me—praise God! I still have to be very careful for the next month; after the healing of the initial site I will begin some physical therapy and an exercise routine. But I will never be able to move a refrigerator alone again. I think I can learn to live with that!

Again, thank you for your prayers and support before and after the surgery. They really saw me through as I felt I was being "lifted on the wings of eagles."

Faithfully, Judith

Upcoming Sermons/*Scriptures

March 7

Mark 5 & 6

March 14

Mark 7 & 8

March 21

Mark 9 & 10

March 28

Mark 11—14



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 \$25

Stephen Ministry: A New Beginning

Stephen Ministry will again be a part of our church and plans have been made to restart the program. Evelyn Grupe has completed the Stephen Ministry training for trainers and former ministers will be invited to become active again. Plans are being made to train new ministers in the fall. You will be hearing more about this lay caring Ministry in the near future and we welcome your questions and participation.

Welcome New Church Members!

Tony and Jan Chiaravalle, Todd Alfrey, Elizabeth Morse, Nicole Widdis, Carlos Hernandez, Scott Kreber, Ken Tiers, and Dina Taylor.

Our 2010 Church Leaders—Thank you for your service!

Barbara Drake (Chair), **Patti Bengtson** (Vice-Chair), **Foofie Faulstich** (Recording Secretary), **Ron Applegate** (Chair, Trustees), **John Helmreich** (Chair, Finance), **Carol Barr** (Lay Member, Annual Conf), **Don Barr** (Lay Member, Annual Conf), **Richard Drath** (Lay Member, Annual Conf.), **Donna Quante** (Financial Secretary), **Eileen Carpenter** (Membership Secretary), **Jerry Holloway** (Lay Leader), **Helen Nolte** (Lay Leader), **Gary Ray** (Lay Leader), **Sheila Linn** (Lay Leader), **Patricia Artis** (Co-Chair, Stewardship), **Bob Nachtsheim** (Co-Chair, Stewardship), **Virginia Legg** (Treasurer), and **Patti Hampton** (Chair, SPRC).

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Save the date for the annual All Church Retreat on April 23-25 at Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe. Dr. Becky Moore will be the facilitator.



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.

HELP FOR HAITI

Thanks to everyone who gave donations for Haiti. We have raised **\$3,510** total, with **\$290** of that from the Tongan youth. Donations are still being taken for Haiti and updates will be available in future newsletters and the announcements.

FAMILY PROMISE—GOOD NEWS!

The City of Reno through Bob Cashill presented the church at Christmas time with two \$1,000.00 gift certificates given to the city by Wal-Mart. They were given to us for our continual outreach in the City. The Mission committee chaired by Mike Faulstich voted to break the gift cards into \$25.00 cards and to give \$1,000 of this money to Family Promise. They also voted to give \$700.00 to the Libby Booth Elementary school which is an at risk school and has an enormous need. Jan Lambert who has taught at the school for many years will present the cards to the Principal. The remaining \$300.00 will go to the church discretionary fund to be used for individuals/families that often come to us with emergency needs.



In addition, the California/Nevada Methodist District gave us a gift of \$2,000 for our work with Children and Poverty. The committee determined to give the Washoe County School Program "Children in Transition" \$1,000 for their work with homeless students in Washoe County Schools. The remained of that money will be distributed later this year.

The above picture is of Ray, the Interim Director of Family Promise providing the first of the gift cards to Laura, a Family Promise participant who moved to her new apartment in February.



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Still in need of Volunteers for our Family Promise Hosting Week – Feb.28-March 6. Call Patti Bengtson 827-2672 or e-mail at pbengtso@charter.net

NEWS FROM YOUTH GROUP



Happy Spring!

As I write this the weather in Reno is very spring-like and I even saw the first signs of crocus peeking up by my mailbox. As we know, all too soon the snow may be falling again and my crocus blossoms will be

filled with snow. It's a beautiful sight, the bright blooms filled with the clean white snow -ah, springtime in Nevada. This spring the Youth are asking everyone to clean out their closets and donate their wearable clothing to the Easter Seals Clothing Drive. From now until April 25th, the Youth will be collecting clothes for handicapped and disabled individuals in our area. There will be a laundry basket outside the Fellowship Hall where you can place your donations of men's, women's, and children's clothing. The Youth will pick them up and deliver them to Easter Seals. At this writing, we are also trying to organize a trip to the Reno Big Horns and it should be a fun event. We are still meeting in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday night at 6:30pm for Youth Group and have Sunday School every Sunday at 9am in the Fireside Room. If you know of youth in grades 7 through 12, please pass this information along, we would love to have them join us.

In His Hands,
Jackie and Gary

Michael Stephenson Returns to Staff

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Michael Stephenson is returning to our staff as the full time director of children's and youth ministries. Michael is currently the youth director at San Ramon United Methodist Church where he has been on staff for five years. Michael will be living in the apartment upstairs in the church when he takes the position about April 1st. Gary and Jackie Ray will continue to work alongside Michael with the youth group as volunteers. Michael is very excited to be returning to his church family at Reno First!



Embrace

On behalf of Embrace, thank you so much for your recent donation. We greatly appreciate your willingness to contribute to Embrace's mission and cause. Our work would not be possible without the generous financial support from donors like you. We have made great gains in our work in the past few months and invite you to view our latest accomplishments via our website: www.embraceglobal.org

Thank you! Your contribution allows us to continue our work to secure more options for families and their children across the globe.

Christina Chao & The Embrace Team

WATCH A BIGHORN GAME AND SUPPORT FAMILY PROMISE

Cops vs. Robbers Part 6
Presents
“Passing The Promise”
2 Games for the price of 1 !

Buy a ticket to the Cops vs. Robbers game and watch the Reno Bighorns game for free (Regularly Valued at \$35.00)

Raffles  **Half-time Entertainment**

Place: Reno Events Center
(Located on Center and Fourth Street, Home of Reno Bighorns)

Time: Cops vs. Robbers Game: Tip Off at 2:30pm (Doors Open at 1:30pm)
Reno Bighorn Game: Tip Off at 7:00pm

Ticket Price: \$15 in Advance; \$25 at the Door; \$6 for Age 15 and Under
(Your ticket purchase will count as your donation to the cause, and we thank you so much)

When: Saturday, March 20th, 2010
Reno's own "Just Us" will be providing high energy classic rock n' roll during the intermission.



This fundraiser is to support "Family Promise", which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, that has been serving the Reno community since 2001. Family Promise's main focus is to help homeless families get off the streets and away from gangs, drugs, alcohol, poverty, and much more. Again, thank you for your donation and generosity, and we hope you enjoy watching as the Reno Police and Fire Dept. take on the Robbers in Part 6 of the Cops vs. Robbers Saga.

Ticket information and sales contact Marcus Woods at 378-8792 or Family Promise 284-5565.

Group Meetings

FMW evening group will meet March 9th at 7pm at the home of Carol Barr. Her address is 1835 Prince Way. Please call for directions at 747-6831. We will complete our study of "The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness". All are welcome and you don't have to have read the book to participate.

-Patti Bengtson

Book Group will read and discuss the following titles this spring:

March: "Shanghai Girls" by Lisa See

April: "Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore May

"Howards End" by E.M. Forster

Staff Parish will meet Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 pm at the home of Patti Hampton.



Sympathy

'Ana Luani, the director of the Tongan Children's Ministries passed away on February 3. Our prayers go out to her husband Viliami, son Eugene, and the Tongan fellowship during this difficult time.

March Birthdays!

Susan Allen	Hardy Brafford
Ann Carlson	Shelby Clayton
Evelyn de la Rosa	Mallorey English
Naomi Fennessey	Danielle Grimm
Jackson Garcia-Jay	Patti Hampton
Dan Harrison	Joelle Jay
Janice Lambert	Michele Lovett
Sam Limerick	Beth MacMillan
Jason Luppnow	Barbara McMeen
Graham MacMillan	Eric Nachtsheim
Susan Miller	Brice Shoolroy
Jackie Ray	George L. Smith
Samantha Shoolroy	Chance Williams
Marie Trammell	
Destinie Williams	

March Anniversaries!

Rob & Deborah Apel
 Peter & Marge Finn
 Doug & Edie McCoy

Thank You

Volunteers!

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



Easter Flowers 2010

You are invited to make our sanctuary *blossom* with flowers on Easter Sunday by remembering or honoring a loved one with an Easter plant. The selection will be a variety of spring flowers in pots and can be purchased for \$8 each. You may take them home following the 11am Easter Worship service.

ORDER DEADLINE IS March 29, 9am

Yes, I would like to order (#) _____ Easter plant(s) at \$9 each. I have enclosed my check/cash in the amount of \$ _____ (Please make checks payable to FUMC). Place this order form in the offering plate at Sunday worship or mail to: FUMC, 209 W. 1st St., Reno, NV. 89501

PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY

In Honor/Memory of: _____

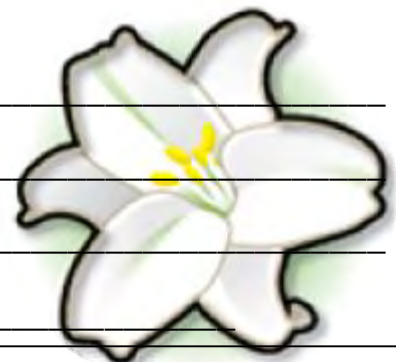
(please circle)

In Honor/Memory of: _____

(please circle)

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Purchaser: _____





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The deadline for submitting articles for the April Visitor is **March 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