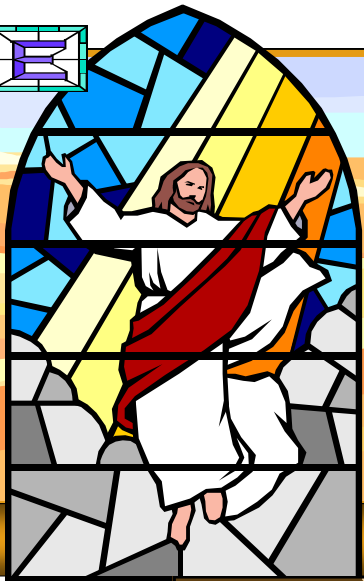


THE

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

APRIL 2010  
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4



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

### Sundays in April:

April 4 Easter Sunday with services at 8:00, 9:00, 11:00 and 2:00 (in Tongan) Holy Communion served at all services.

April 11 Mission Celebration Sunday  
At the 10:00AM service hear from our mission team about their trip to Dulac, Louisiana.

April 18 On the Road with Paul

April 25 Church Retreat (guest preacher)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Judith's Journal	2
Church Retreat	3
Finance	4
Drop in the Bucket	4
Volunteers needed	4
Family Promise	4
Youth Group	5
Artown	5
Group meetings	6
Discretionary Fund	6
People	7

#### The March of Dimes

"march for babies"

is April 24, 2010 at the Sparks Marina.

Registration: 7:30am

Race starts at 9am

Fundraising forms are available online at [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org).

or contact Rachel Williams for more information at

775-331-4060 or

[rwilliams@terriblescasinos.com](mailto:rwilliams@terriblescasinos.com).



**Stephen Ministry**, a Christian care giving system, has begun. Several formerly trained ministers have graciously agreed to become active again. They will begin skill refreshing sessions soon and when completed will be available to offer support and comfort to care receivers in our FUMC family. We are all most appreciative of the commitment of time and talent these members are offering to us. We remember the words in John 13:34: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another."

If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry please contact Reverend Bither or Evelyn Grupe at 775-747-7230.

## JUDITH'S JOURNAL

I haven't connected my television since moving to Reno, but confess that I do have an account with Netflix. I am able to watch movies when I need a little mindless entertainment. One of the benefits with Netflix is that you rate the movies you see and taking that information they have suggestions for other movies you might like. I've seen some great "sleeper" films this way most of which are independent films. Such was the case with the movie "The Answer Man." Before I recommend this movie I want to disclose that it is "R" rated because of the language. Although I am personally offended by foul language, in this particular movie it makes sense where and how it is used.



That being said, the movie is about a man who wrote a best seller 20 years ago called "God and Me." It was a huge hit and many movements spun off from it such as "The God and Me Diet," "Understanding God and Me" and so forth. *Everyone wants to meet Jeff (Arlen Faber), the world famous author of this best-selling spiritual book, but crotchety, disgruntled Jeff simply wants to be left alone - and so far he's been successful in keeping his identity a secret.* One day while delivering the mail, the carrier discovers who the author really is and he can no longer live anonymously. He decides to get rid of all of his religious books and carts them on a dolly to a local bookstore to sell them. The owner is a young man (Kris) who has just finished a 28-day rehab program for alcohol. He is trying to stay sober by going to AA meetings, but returns every night to find his father drunk.

Without giving away any more of the story, there is a part where Kris finally agrees to take three books for every question the "guru" answers. One of his questions is: "Does hell really exist?" The answer: "I've seen hell. It's Reno, Nevada!"

I thought about my first reaction about one year ago when I was asked to move to Reno and that was pretty much my opinion. (I've never been to Las Vegas!) Of course upon visiting and then moving here my opinion has changed greatly. This is a great place to live and I love almost everything about Reno. But the comment gave me pause. For people who have addictions, especially to gambling, sex or alcohol, this could easily become hell. There are people who get trapped here after losing everything and cannot escape. How are we being called to minister to and with them? Where do they find hope?

This summer we will be launching **The Summer of Hope** from mid-June to mid-August on Wednesday evenings. This will include a potluck, informal worship and classes or support groups for children, youth and adults. More details will be coming out in the next few weeks. The energy is really growing about this mid-week way of connecting for fellowship and intentional faith development. Stay tuned and get ready to for some great new programs at First Church!

Faithfully, *Judith*



**2010 ALL CHURCH RETREAT**

THE VISITOR

**God. Is. Good.**

*With Rebecca Moore, Ph.D.*

PAGE 3

This workshop develops some themes introduced at the 2009 Lake Tahoe Retreat. We will first look at our conceptions about God: what do we believe? what do we know? what are our affirmations and our rejections? We will then examine "is," and the subject of God's existence: what is the nature of faith? how are faith and doubt related? Finally, we will consider the possibility of God's goodness. The issue of theodicy--the justification of God's righteousness in the face of radical suffering--will be discussed. There will be opportunities for group interaction and reflection.

**ZEPHYR POINT PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE CENTER - ZEPHYR COVE, LAKE TAHOE**

**Friday Evening through Sunday Noon – April 23-25, 2010**

**Singles, couples, families, all ages welcome**

*Adults \$75 each*

*Children & Youth 3-18 \$50 each*

*Family Rate not to exceed \$300*

*Children under 3 are free.*

*Includes two nights lodging, four meals, program fees, children's programs during adult programs – music . . . fellowship . . . family evening programs. . . optional hikes and activities on Saturday afternoon, . . . comfortable private rooms in lodge or cabins . . . outstanding food.*

*Return to Church Office*

**Registration Form and check are due by Friday, April 9**

**Checks payable to FUMC Retreat**

Adult Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/s & Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring a Breakfast casserole for Sunday morning breakfast \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Adults @ \$75: \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Children & Youth, Ages 3-18 @ \$50: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Family Rate \$300 Max)

**OR**

I will come for Saturday morning only @ \$20 for the course and lunch \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Donation to Offset Program Costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please help me (us) with some financial assistance \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to carpool with someone else \_\_\_\_\_

(Questions? Call Margot Chappel at 830-7275)

Rebecca Moore has a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Marquette University (1996), where her specialty was Jewish and Christian dialogue. She has written and published on medieval Christian theologians and their debt to Jewish biblical commentary. She co-authored the book *A Portable God: The Origin of Judaism and Christianity*, with SDSU colleague Risa Levitt Kohn. The book examines how first-century Judaic groups interpreted Israelite religion in a new historical context. Dr. Moore also specializes in American Religion, with a speciality on New Religious Movements, where she has concentrated on explicating a group called Peoples Temple and the events at Jonestown, Guyana in November 1978. This effort can be seen on the website <http://jonestown.sdsu.edu>. Her book *Understanding Jonestown and Peoples Temple* was released from Praeger in March 2009.

**Calling all COFFEE drinkers!**  
**Help celebrate the new coffee system by bringing in a can of coffee. Please put it in the kitchen. The 8 am service needs volunteers to donate refreshments. Thanks!**



**Operating Budget Report as of February 28, 2010**

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$25,413	\$50,000
Expense	\$19,429	\$ 43,022
Balance	\$ 5,984	\$ 6,978

Operating Fund bank balance: \$11,901  
 Income year-to-date includes \$2,090 in funds donated, either as part of authorized Capital Campaign funds or other designated giving.

2010 Apportionments paid to date: \$5,766

**DROP IN THE BUCKET**

Do you have a truck and time available on Monday mornings? The Food Bank of Northern Nevada will no longer deliver our food for Drop In the Bucket to the church. We must pick it up at a parking lot in Sparks on Monday mornings at 9am. It would not be every Monday, only when we order food. It only takes about an hour and a half to pick up and unload. If you think you can help, please contact Richard Drath at 356-6165. Thank you!



**FAMILY PROMISE**

We had a great week of hosting four Family Promise families from February 28-March 6. A big thanks goes out to all of our volunteers including the set-up/close-up group, dinner hosts, overnight hosts, food donors and laundry folks. And as usual we are grateful to Jim and Jose who clean up after we're gone and often load beds.

Our volunteers this time were Chesley Spring, David and Debbie Smith, Bruce Lerner, Katie Salo, Susan Allen, Howard & Mary Ann McKibben, Barbara Drake, Merry Sylvester, Paul Lowe, Jackie Ruffin, Evelyn Grupe, Sandy LeSourd, Jeff Spalin, David Shintani, Priscilla Barton, Harvey & Susan Lee, Yvonne Woods, Nancy Wong & Jay Stuart, Dan and Catie Harrison, Jennifer Rains and Scott Kreber, Zona Hairgrove, Mary King, Patti Hampton, Linda Brown and Pat Miller. Gwen Shonkwiler along with other St Paul's volunteers brought food items, spent the night and prepared dinner. A special thanks to those who do the laundry and we are never quite sure who they are??

**Our next hosting date will be May 9 to May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Please save the date as we will not be hosting during the summer due to the congestion downtown and lack of parking. -Patti Bengtson

## NEWS FROM YOUTH GROUP



Happy Spring! This month we celebrate Easter, a time of rebirth, renewal and moving to a new season!

It is also a time of transition for the Youth Program as we welcome Michael Stephenson as the new Youth Director. It has been such a privilege working with the Youth of the church but we truly believe this transition will only bring good things for the program.. We will still be involved on a volunteer basis and will enjoy watching the program grow. The Youth continue to participate in a clothing drive in conjunction with the local chapter of Easter Seals. When doing your Spring Cleaning, please remember to donate your old clothing to this worthwhile cause. There is a drop off basket outside the Fellowship Hall. The Youth continue to meet each Wednesday night in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. and Sunday School each Sunday in the Fireside Room from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. The Youth 2010 Mission Trip will be in San Francisco from July 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be working at an inner-city day care center, homeless shelter and delivering food to HIV/AIDS patients. A special thank you to Alycia Stuart and the Youth Group for their help with the Palm Sunday Banner. Thank you for continuing to support the Youth Group.

-Gary and Jackie

## Artown Sweet Vibrations Concerts July 2010 7pm

T	July 6	<b>Toccata Red, White &amp; Blue</b>	Americana at it's best with this outstanding No. NV chorus & instrumentalists. James Rawie conducting.
Th	July 8	<b>Pat Esters-Blues Vocalist</b>	Coolest blues around! An amazing voice backed up by musicians Peter Supersano, Dennis Steele & Phil Jerome.
T	July 13	<b>Brassakwards Swing Band</b>	Toe-Tappin Fun! Enjoy the unbeatable Larry & Julie Machado & friends playing all the favorites.
Th	July 15	<b>RAGTIME with Abigail the Acrobatic Ape</b>	Squeek Steele, piano & guest Gary Greenlund, Banjo. Must-See-&-Hear!
T	July 20	<b>Silver Dollar Barbershop Chorus &amp; Quartets</b>	Harmony at its Best! Come enjoy Reno's own chorus & award-winning quartets.
Th	July 22	<b>Great Basin Brass</b>	Top of the Line Fun & Talent! Incomparable Engstrom, Lenze, Adlish, Neidhold & Dickman quintet.
T	July 27	<b>No Comprende</b>	Latin Lovers' Dream! Hans Halt, Dallas Smith, Eric Middleton, Kris Landrum & Eric Finklestein.
Th	July 29	<b>Harp &amp; Vibes</b>	Surprises! The amazing versatility of Reno's Bev Colgan & Joe Venuto will keep you guessing.

Plus: July 1-31, M-F, 9-4: **ART IN THE PARLOR—LATIMER ART CLUB**  
**“BENEATH WESTERN SKIES”**

Plus: July 20, 10-11am: **FUMC STAINED GLASS TOUR** Stained glass expert Kathy Hallimore will provide historical, artistic and technical background on our beautiful stained glass.

## Group Meetings

### Grief Share

There will be a Grief Share reunion at the parsonage on April 11 at 5pm.

### Staff Parish Relations Committee

SPRC will not meet in April, but will meet on May 20th at 6:30pm.



### Book Group

Book Group will discuss the following titles on these dates:

April 26      *Same Kind of Different as Me*  
By Ron Hall and Denver Moore

May 24      *Howard's End* by E.M. Forster

### FMW

The Fellowship of Methodist Women evening group will meet on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julee Olander. Her address is 4207 Pinto Dr. Call (775) 747-2193 for directions. Our program will be a presentation by Jason and Jennifer Daniels, Co-Executive Directors of Campus Christian Association aka The Agape House. Please plan to come and join us! All are welcome.

The FMW women's day group will meet for their regular monthly luncheon at noon on April 21 in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited.

### Simplicity

Simplicity continues to meet the first Thursday evening each month at the home of Fooie Faulstich. The next gathering is April 8, 7:00 p.m. Call Barbara Drake at 786-6818 for any questions.

### Writer's Group

The Writing group always welcomes new people. Come share your stories and hear others. We meet at 1:00 p.m. in Pastor Judith's office on the second Wednesday each month. The next gathering is April 14. Call Barbara Drake at 786-6818 for any questions.

### Your Pastor's Discretionary Funds at Work

In 2009 we were able to help 56 individuals and/or families with checks (never cash) totaling \$2,060 for Greyhound bus tickets, partial rent, DMV identification cards, RTC bus passes, medications, utilities, clothing, food, and Amtrak train tickets. The church staff met late last year with Catholic Community Services and then at a later date toured their facilities on East Fourth Street. As a result, we are now referring most of those who come into the office for help to that program. Because they are so well-equipped to handle the variety of problems that exist with homelessness and poverty, Reverend Bither and the staff have decided that from time to time we will contribute funds to their work. In March we will send them \$100. Please continue your generous contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (collected the first Sunday of each month during communion in the plates at the front of the sanctuary).

## April Birthdays!

Faye Anderson	Joe Antonuccio
Tennile Benjamin	Margot Chappel
Carson Crosby	Michael Daines
Darlene Dougherty	Carol Flores
Jose Franco	Jack Helmreich
Dorothy Johnson	Sherry Johnson
Robynne Luppnow	Douglas McCoy
Gerald McDonald	Howard McKibben
Dana Moreland	Avrey Morrice
Tristan Morrice	Helen Riley
Sue Roberts	Elena Shintani
Andy Sonnemaker	Nancy Wong
Yvonne Wood	
Mary Jean Overholser	



## April Anniversaries!

Ron Applegate & Cherie Balik  
 Jan & Tony Chiaravalle  
 Ira & Kay Greene  
 John Helmreich & Nancy Ritchie

## In Memory of

90 regular and large print "Faith We Sing" pew hymnals have been given to the church by John and Jean Norris in loving memory of their granddaughter, Kristen Wyak Norris. Another 90 were purchased with memorial funds.

## Corrections

2010 Church Leaders

Barbara Trimmer is Recording Secretary

Footie Faulstich is Church Conference Recording Secretary

## With Sympathy

Our prayers go out to Gary Ray and his family for the loss of his father.

## Thank You

### Volunteers!

Susan Allen	Patti Hampton	Jennifer Rains
Ron Applegate	Dale Hampton	Dave Roundtree
Cherie Balik	Dennis Harms	Jackie Ruffin
Carol Barr	Dan Harrison	Katie Salo
Priscilla Barton	Catie Harrison	Ruth Schulz
Patti Bengtson	Denise Hedrick	Virginia Shattuck
Susan Bergman	Wyatt Hedrick	Dave Shintani
Judith Bither	Dale Hicks	Gwen Shonkwiler
Linda Brown	Erv Horton	George Smith
Janet Butler	Mary King	David Smith
Jim Case	Scott Kreber	Debbie Smith
Jody Conn	Harvey Lee	Jeff Spalin
Barbara Drake	Susan Lee	Chelsey Spring
Ralph Drake	Bruce Lerner	Jay Stuart
Richard Drath	Sandy LeSourd	Merry Sylvester
Betty Dukes	Paul Lowe	Barbara Trimmer
Janice Emerson	Phyllis Mattingly	Jeannie Westin
John Emerson	Howard McKibben	Nancy Wong
Joyce Feist	Mary Ann McKibben	Elizabeth Wong
Norma Frook	Pat Miller	Yvonne Woods
Denis Graham	Neal Miller	
Evelyn Grupe	Elaine Moser	
Zona Hairgrove	Donna Quante	





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

Phone: 775-322-4564 Fax: 775-322-0285  
 E-mail: [renofirst@gbis.com](mailto:renofirst@gbis.com)  
[www.renofirstmethodist.org](http://www.renofirstmethodist.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit  
 Organization  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 RENO, NV  
 Permit No. 264



The deadline for submitting articles for the  
 May Visitor is **April 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 & Youth Ministries:  
 Michael Stephenson  
 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