

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

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July 2 - Squeek Steele 7:00 pm
Ragtime All the Time!



July 7 - Toccata Chorus/Orchestra - 7:00
Red, White & Blue



July 9 - The Collective 7:00 pm
UNR's Best Jazz



July 14 - Pat Esters 7:00 pm
Cool Jazz Vocals!



July 16 - Great Basin Brass 7:00 pm
Humor and Energy!



July 21 - Brassakwards 7:00 pm
Lively Swing Band!



July 23 - Bella Voce 7:00 pm
Songs from the 20's and 30's



July 28 - Harp & Vibes 7:00 pm
Bach to Basie!



Ageless Repertory Theater



Latimer Art Club Exhibit

Please see complete FUMC Artown schedule on back of the July Calendar



With little bottles of bubbles left from son Jacob and Sonya's wedding in San Rafael the week after Easter, we summed up my mother's burial on my dad's birthday just before Mothers Day, on the banks of the Fox River, St. Charles, IL – leaving the air above the family plot shimmering with fragile resiliency! A gentle playful foretaste of another side of the Holy Spirit whose wind and fire ignite and inspire the DAY OF PENTECOST May 31! It's my favorite day of the church year –

the culmination of resurrection in the form of Christ's Spirit returning to fill his Body the Church with continuing presence and power of his life and work!

I believe there is no other "return," no "second coming," no more excuses – We are it! Jesus has no other plan than us! I hope that I will be remembered, now that my fulltime work for the church is done, as part of the gentle playful side of the Spirit. I am serious about things to be serious about. But I am always humbled by how little we ever grasp of our all-too-human role and responsibility as consciousness of creation to "represent Christ" whoever, wherever we are. Like Jesus, each of us has our ways to let go. Mine is undoubtedly too verbose.

Since I came to ministry in response to Dr. King's death, I am specially thankful for chances to offer our community the yet-to-be-fully-revealed gift of the weekends we did to remember and recommit to his "unfinished business" – of poverty, racism, war. I am a child of the sixties. Beginning seminary in 1968 and becoming a 3-year student pastor, I have been preaching for 40 years! Get the hook!! As we all preach with one foot in heaven, one foot on earth, so I have tried to preach one foot in the church, one in the community. Thanks to this congregation, "like a tree that's planted by the water," for not moving but being moved by the chaos/community, wilderness/promised land, staying "downtown!"

Now that I have grown to accept and appreciate this best possible circumstance for all, Julie and I look forward to adventurously beginning again, as we have our whole life together – from Showboat days on the Ohio River and Peace Corps in Turkey, through conversion and call (or was it call and conversion?), 25 years in Chicago as an adoptive family, California and even Nevada! As usual, we did not know exactly where or how we were going. We came here with no other plan.

This was to be (for better and worse – as all things are!) last stop on our fulltime itinerancy. The "state of the church" was good when we got here. It is good now. My mother, among all the words of wisdom we attribute to her, said all comparisons are odious. We are at a different, newer – perhaps edgier, even riskier place – still on the journey – still responding to God's still gracious invitation to follow Jesus at all costs – still revealed to, for, with, through, in spite of us by the Holy Spirit – leading, guiding, evoking, inspiring, cleaning up after us!

Thanks and Love Always, John and Julie

PS – Most of these words served as introduction to a "state of the church" report I left with Church Council. You are welcome to a copy. Let me know you want it.

Dear friends,



Thanks for the great ride! From the very first 8:00 service (yes, for a short time, I went to both!) where the Yadons introduced themselves to me as being from a small town in Iowa 30 miles south of Mason City, Iowa, I knew there was something special about this place. That small town was my own home town! What a sign of being home! Of family! And we were off and running together.

I have told several of you that I have never had so many real friends in a congregation before. Perhaps it was because I was retired and had more time to be with people. Perhaps it was the altitude and everyone was giddy from the lack of oxygen. But perhaps it was because this is truly a warm and loving place and people. Thank you for nurturing, nursing, and nourishing us. We know all the slogans—"Reno eNVy," "We Know Reno", and "We Love This Place." We subscribe to all of them, but especially "We Love This Place" because of how Reno First took it to its heart and soul. And we have it in our hearts and souls now also.

And a special thanks to all those who made me feel so special at Babette's Feast—those who planned it, those who prepared the food, those who served, those who cleaned up, those who wrote poems (oh yeah, Pat), those who played beautiful music, and all those who chose to be there that evening. I thank you all. And I leave you with a phrase that my mother-in-law often wrote at the end of her letters. We never figured out exactly what it meant. We only knew that it meant a huge measure. It was "I love you more than tonkey tell." And I do. We will miss you all.

Julie

GOING WITH FLO — SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 — 9:55 am

We want to welcome our new Nursery Staff **Amanda Holland** and say a fond good-bye to **Katherine Stromer**. Katherine is taking a summer camp position and will return to UNR as a fall 2009 student.

Newsflash: Flo is taking a summer break to be in Virginia with her family for June & July. Her Virginia family is experiencing many troubles so she is taking a leave of absence and return the first week of August. She'll miss my church family and thanks you for your continued prayers.

SUMMER SCHEDULE begins May 24th, Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekends. We will have Nursery for Birth to 5 years for the 10am Worship Service. We will have Enrichment Time 10:30 to 11:30am for the Sundays we have volunteers. Sign up for Enrichment Time on the list in Children's Ministries downstairs.



TEA ON THE RIVER -Thanks to all who helped make our Young Lives Fundraiser a success.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED IN CHILDRENS MINISTRIES PRIMARY CLASS (1ST, 2ND, 3RD GRADES) GAP (4TH, 5TH, 6TH GRADES). PLEASE SIGN UP WHEN FLO RETURNS IN AUGUST

Hi everyone, my name is **Amanda Holland**, the new nursery care hire. I love kids and I feel like it was a miracle from God when I found out about this opportunity. I was born and raised in Bishop, California and was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Bishop. I moved to Reno in August 2008 to attend Truckee Meadows Community College to get my degree in Business Management. I also work at Claim Jumper restaurant so if anyone comes in to eat, don't be shy, introduce yourself! I love meeting new people! Moving from a small town to a city has been a good experience and I'm so glad that I found the same church that I was born and raised in. I attended church my whole life with my mother, learning about the important values in life. As I got older, I worked my way up from a Sunday School volunteer to where I am today. I was a teacher in Vacation Bible School for four summers. I can't wait for the summer to meet all the families in the church!

WHASSUP YOUTH

Hello All!! It is hard to believe we find ourselves at the end of another school year with the youth running amuck over the summer. Jackie and I feel privileged to have been allowed to work with these youth and we have had a blast!!



We enthusiastically welcome all the graduating Children's Program members to the Youth group. We look forward to your participation next year!! Have a great Summer and stay in touch!

-Gary and Jackie

Please note upcoming activities:

- May 27th: Tie dye at and with the First Congregational Church at 6:30 PM
- May 30th: Confirmation of Youth (Jacob, Justin and T.J.)
- June 3rd: High School Graduation Recognition (Mallory, Paul and Irene)
- June 7: The last Sunday School Class
- June 10: and the last regularly scheduled Wednesday night Youth Group
- July 26-August 1st: Gleaning for the Hungry Mission Trip to Dinuba, CA

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

COME PLAN SUMMER ADULT CLASS! -- Adult Sunday School Class 9 AM Sundays in the Fellowship Hall has kindly agreed for John to show the PBS video "Let the Sunshine In – Hair!" – a 40-year retrospective on the meaning of the musical for anti-war and counter-cultural community – part of the calling of the church as well! Beginning June 28 Adult Class will do something special for the summer – Come out now and help decide what it will be!

Operating Budget as of April 30, 2009

Income	\$96,352
Expense	<u>92,840</u>
Balance	\$3,512
General Fund bank balance: \$10,400	
Apportionments paid to date: \$5,900	
Apportionments due to date: \$17,034	

April brings us a third of the way through the calendar and financial year. The chart above reflects the status of income and expense through April. As you can see, we have received more income than was expended, and as we began 2009 with a positive cash position, our General Fund checking account had a balance at the end of April of \$10,400.

We have budgeted income and expense for the year to be approximately \$312,000 or \$26,000 per month, although giving and spending patterns do not fully coincide with this monthly spread. Using \$26,000 per month as a guide, we are under budget in both income and expense from what we projected at the beginning of the year. The income side is down about \$2,000/month from what was projected, but we have also not spent as much as we had budgeted.

The key area where we have reduced expense (not spent dollars) is in apportionments. At this point in the year we have paid \$5900 -- which is 35% of what we had planned to have paid through April.

We tend to think of reducing expenses as a good thing. In this case however, reducing our apportionments is not a positive. They represent an important element of our mission by supporting the broader Church -- its structure, activities and mission commitments. We have the opportunity through the rest of the year to attain our expected apportionment contributions, but your Finance Committee wants to share where we are at this point in the year.

Please note that the church also has funds available through Capital Campaign funds, and the Trustees are using some of those dollars, with Church Council approval, to complete projects associated with the parsonage, the Fellowship Hall, and the downstairs bathrooms and school room areas of the church. These funds are not associated with our operating budget.

-John Helmreich, Finance Committee Chair

As we enter the second "cycle" of our stewardship program, Cycles of Discipleship, we want to share the results of the adjustments and new pledges received.

1 new pledge was received

3 pledges decreased and

8 pledges increased.

The total impact of these responses resulted in a projected increase of \$3,315.00 for our 2009 pledge income. Thanks to all who responded. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of your financial givings. We will have one more "cycle" to address income for 2009 around the first of September. Then the next contact will be to offer our Discipleship Promises for 2010.

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Truckee Meadows) is currently hiring for the position of Executive Director. **Elizabeth Dorway** has accepted a position elsewhere and will be missed by all! If you are interested in applying for this position, please call the Family Promise office at 284-5566 for more information.

FAMILY PROMISE (IHN) HOSTING

We will be hosting the IHN families from June 21-27. We'll need volunteers for dinner and overnight and food items. Please look for the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall or contact **Patti Bengtson** at pbengtso@charter.net or 827-2672 if you have any questions.

IT WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S DAY!! SUNDAY, MAY 31 –

The Spirit Jesus promises us pours out upon us once again! Come, celebrate the Pentecost Story – in words and in bells!!

ŪThe **Chancel Choir** sings the last times before summer break.

ŪThere will be baptisms -- and three confirmations – **Justin Forrest Perry Cercone, Thomas James English, Jacob Lee Tash!**

They have been in active conversation with their adult mentors and Sunday School class since the beginning of Lent. They went on retreat with our Bishop. They worshiped at both synagogue and mosque. Please, let them know how grateful we are for them and for the care they have taken through this preparation!

ŪWear Pentecost Red! Bring a “birthday gift” for the church – supplies for, office, Sunday School, kitchen! Receive the priesthood of all us believers!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES - YAM

Hello all YAMs and YAM supporters!

What a wonderful time of the year! CONGRATULATIONS to **Virginia** and **Ben** for completing their undergraduate degrees! Congratulations to all those who are graduating high school and soon will be in the “young adult” category! Indeed, an exciting time of the year. Graduation is not only a celebration of what you have accomplished, but what you can accomplish in the future. It is a time of immense joy coupled with intense self-reflection. This not only occurs for the graduates themselves, but also inspires us all to celebrate where we’ve been, and to consider the many options in front of us.

It is with that in mind that Marie and I would like to formally announce our stepping down as directors of the Young Adult Ministries. As many of you have no doubt noticed, the young adults have grown in so many new and wonderful ways. We are no longer a group of loosely associated 20-somethings struggling to make it through college. Indeed, our youngest members just graduated with their bachelor's! And the best thing about change is that it keeps on happening. Thus, it is time for change, and time for us to step down so we can continue on our own changing lives.



We do want to emphasize that we aren't going anywhere! We will still be around, and rest assured, those that fit the “young adult” category will always be in fellowship with each other and the church. And no, the coffee isn't going away! Coffee sales will now be managed by Margot to support the All-Church Retreat. We couldn't be happier that this green ministry will continue and go to support such a wonderful program (one that definitely supports young adults). Keep an eye on future

Visitors for any changes that may occur, but we are working to make this as seamless and efficient as possible. Marie and I would like to full-heartedly thank everyone at the church for making the last 5 years of the Young Adults Ministry wonderfully successful. Without the support, thoughts, prayers and actions of this church, we would have never made it to where we are today. It has been so rewarding and we can't wait to see where the spirit guides future young adult groups in this church, but we know they are in good hands.

Peacefully and spiritually yours, Jamie and



John & Julie are retiring this year and will be leaving the area. There will be a celebration of their lifelong service of ministry on Sunday **June 21st**, John's last Sunday with us. This will occur during the service and at a reception in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10 o'clock service. Please come and join us on this very special occasion.

THANK A MUSICIAN!

This is the time of year we give a Great Big Thank You to all the musicians who enrich our services throughout the year. Thanks to **Linda Brown & Ben Brown** for their tireless leadership of Sweet Vibrations and First Ringers, and thanks to all who participate in the chime and bell groups. It is amazing how far the handbell program has come, and how many committed participants there are!

Thanks to **John Helmreich** and **Gary Ray** for their leadership with our children's chorus. We wonder who has more fun - the children or John and Gary?? Certainly a good time is had by all. And another Great Big Thanks to choir director **Andy Sonnemaker** and our **Chancel Choir**. It is love for FUMC and for music that keeps these devoted folks coming back Sunday after Sunday for choir rehearsal Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. And remember, all are welcome! We'll keep you posted on our fall start-up date.

Thanks to our **Tongan friends**, who share their music in their beautiful language, and to their talented youth who sing so well. Their band is awesome and always a treat to hear! Thanks as well to the **Three Amigos, The Wesley Five (Mike Cleveland & crew), Margo Chappel, the Shaw brothers, Noel Argall, Melissa Johnson, Jarod Sorum**, various Chancel Choir members and others who provide us with special music for worship and other occasions. We are indeed musically blessed at FUMC!

Cheryl Shingler, Director of Music



You've been Pinked! If you would like to surprise a graduate or celebrate a special occasion (birthday, wedding, baby, anniversary, or just because) AND support the youth group, we've got the solution. For a \$25 donation to the Methodist Youth Fellowship, we will deliver, under the cover of night, a flock of pink flamingos and a sign with your message on the lawn of the honoree. Price includes pick up the next evening; or for \$20, you can do a revenge flocking. Call the Wong/Stuarts at 828-5143 or e-mail wongstuart@aol.com to arrange a pinking.

FIRST QUILTERS has been in existence for a number of years, started by **Sharon Stephenson** with a bunch of total novices, who expressed willingness to learn a new craft; quilting. We continued to meet monthly at the Church, usually working on projects that Sharon came up with; mystery quilts, bags, etc. When Sharon and Mike moved to San Ramon, we continued to meet monthly and came up with our own projects, For the past several years we have had fundraisers to provide funds to purchase supplies such as batting (the stuff that goes in the middle of a quilt), Hanging rods, ironing boards, etc. and also to be able to donate funds to a mission of the church. We have consistently donated half or more of funds raised to support a mission, including Drop in the Bucket. We welcome new members, no matter what the skill level; we all advise and assist when needed to expand each other's skills. Our meetings are held on the third Friday of each month, starting about nine a.m. and go until we get tired or have other things to do. We have a pot luck lunch (we ARE Methodists, after all!) and have a great time. Come check us out!



Help bring dignity, meaning, and safety to a vulnerable elder. Special Advocates for Elders is looking for volunteers to serve elders who are facing or under guardianship. SAFE volunteers work to advocate for elders who may have suffered neglect, abuse or exploitation; who may be caught in family conflict; or who may not have family or friends available to help provide companionship, support and a better quality of life. A SAFE volunteer's perspective can be invaluable to the judge who may have to make critical and life-changing decisions about an elder's future and an rights. To learn more or to sign up for the upcoming training class for new advocates, call **Pat Smith**, 348-6625.

In Our Prayers

The Bennett family John & Julie Auer Terri Arcularius Family of Eleanor Carroll Gail Faulstich
Family of Jan Blodgett Tom Berry Floyd Brown Martha Jones Craig Imus-Bird
Ben Artis & family Sarah Stephenson The unhoused and unemployed

June Birthdays

Pam Roberts Johnny Lowe
Michael Benjamin Sarah McCormick
Evelyn Grupe Liliana Fennessey
Lumena Fennessey Patricia Swindle
Barbara Trimmer Joseph Petrosky
Flo Tinsley Nanuma Aonga
Rick Cornell Jim Gerbel Julie Machado
Terri Lowe Andrew Smith Zelma Dick
Timothy Brown Len Overholser
Devin Jostmeyer Don Barr Lacey Baldwin
Linda K Brown Chesley Spring
Jacob Tash Robert Dick Robert McCoy
Max Lowe Keith Shriver Reese Olander
Gabriel Moran John Emerson
Sione Vakapuna Ashlynn Grimm

June Anniversaries!

Gary & Pat Artis John & Julie Auer
Patti Bengtson & Bruce Lerner
Kevin & Stella Blanchard
Erna & James Davis
Barbara & Ralph Drake
Mike & Foofie Faulstich
Helen Nolte & William Goddard
Catie & Dan Harrison
Denise and Wyatt Hedrick
Barbara & David Jones
Ed & June LaPlante
Gerald & Jane McDonald
Bob & Carol Olmstead
Susan & Timothy Perry
Doris and Joseph Petrosky
Andy & Susan Sonnemaker

A Gift has been given to the church in
honor of

Erv Horton and Ruth Schulz
by an anonymous donor.

THANKSGIVING FOR ALL THE GRADUATES!! -- SUNDAY, JUNE 7

We are so proud to recognize and
celebrate so many graduates of so many
programs!

Jessie Beck Elementary
Toree Legg

Reno High School
Lacey Baldwin

McQueen High School
Malloreay English
Stephanie Glantz

Hug High School
Procter Lotulelei

Manogue High School
Derek Reid

Bachelor Degrees - UNR
Ben Brown
Daniel McGowan
Virginia Smith

**Master of Arts in
Human Resources Management,
George Washington University**
Meghan McGowan



**Master of Divinity,
Pacific School of Religion**
George Bennett

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Jim Case
Elizabeth Wong
Betty Dukes
Ruth Schulz
Erv Horton
Virginia Shattuck
Susan Bergman
Jazmin Gaona
David Nolde
Jody Conn
Melissa Conn
Richard Drath
Dave Roundtree
Donna Roundtree
Carol Barr
Mary King
Patti Bengtson
Linda Brown
Denis Graham
Elaine Moser
Joyce Feist
Janet Butler
Phyllis Mattingly
Luke Stella
Max Qualls
Mike Brooks



We celebrate the
retirements of
Patti Bengtson
from Social
Service in the
Family Court
system and of
John Auer.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Pastor in charge—The Reverend John J. Auer
Newsletter Editor: Noel Argall and Office Volunteers

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

Office hours Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm

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

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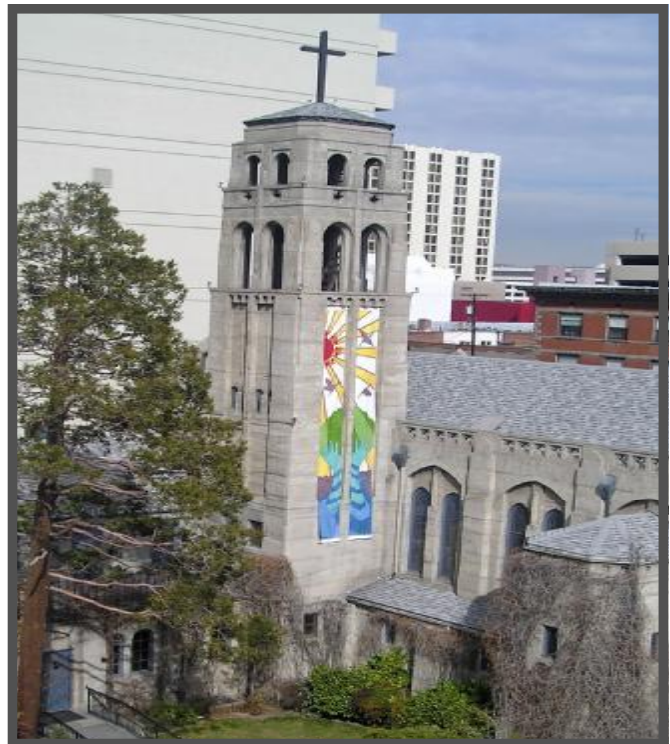
The deadline for submitting articles into the
June Visitor is Monday, June 15



FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Ministers:

The People of First United Methodist Church
Pastor-in-Charge: The Reverend John Auer
Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend John Emerson
Pastoral Associate: Curt Fonken
Church Business Administrator: Shirley McKim
Administrative Assistant: Noel Argall
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