

January
2007

the Clarion!
First Congregational UCC
Las Vegas Nevada

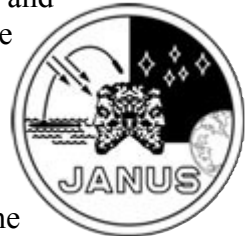


From the Pastor

As probably many of you know, our month of January is named after the Roman god Janus. Janus is usually portrayed with two faces (although in some mythologies with four), and so in modern times we've tended to think of him as "two-faced" with the negative image that implies of saying one thing at one time and then switching positions (like some politicians, perhaps, hmmmmm?).

But actually the two faces of Janus are meant more to signify looking back and looking forward, and this is why the first month of the year came to be called after him as we look back to the months we have spent together (as in our Annual Reports) but also look forward to new and renewing times in the months ahead. As Wikipedia says about him:

"Janus was frequently used to symbolize change and transitions such as the progression of past to future, of one condition to another, of one vision to another, the growing up of young people, and of one universe to another. He was also known as the figure representing time because he could see into the past with one face and into the future with the other. Hence, Janus was worshipped at the beginnings of the harvest and planting times, as well as marriages, births and other beginnings. He was representative of the middle ground between barbarity and civilization, rural country and urban cities, and youth and adulthood."



(Interestingly, since Janus was also the god of doors and halls, the other contemporary word that includes a reference to him is "janitor". Maybe this is a veiled reference to the way we're supposed to "clean up our act" with our New Year resolutions!)

It is important that we reflect on what has happened and what has been accomplished in the past year. In that regard I do hope that all of you will make an effort to attend the Annual Meeting after worship on January 27 to help us do this kind of reflection.

But of course it is equally important that we envision the year (and years) ahead in order to build our church and strengthen its mission and ministry. Janus is usually portrayed with a beard on one of his faces, symbolizing the wisdom that has come with reflecting on the past, and clean-shaven on the other face. It is up to us to (metaphorically)

“put the hairs on that beard” – that is, work together to make sure that the church in this place is fulfilling its mission and ministry to the best of its ability.

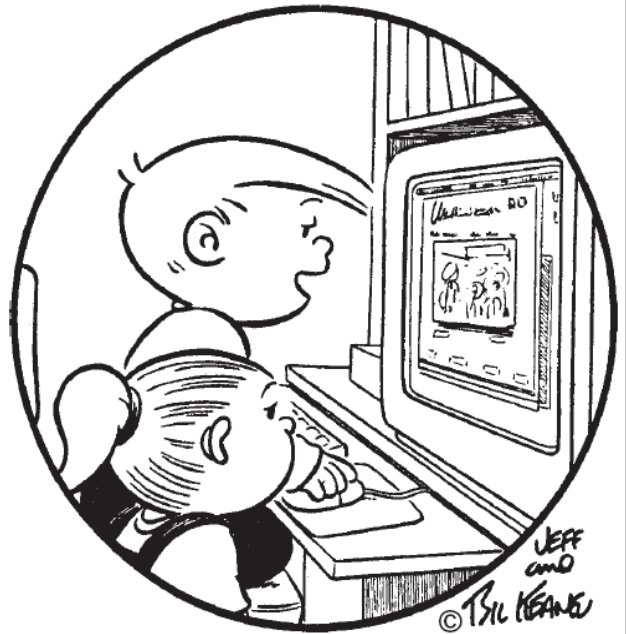
We are not being two-faced when we both look back and look forward. We are being faithful to the God who calls us to reflect and gain wisdom and then plan and act. May we be God’s good stewards in the year ahead.

Dave

HARRY WILLARD: 1946-2007

Our congregation was shocked and saddened by the December 5th death of our organist, pianist, and friend Harry Willard. Harry enriched our services with his musical talent for 28 years, a record equaled by very few church musicians. Though his lifelong musical career was made difficult by increasingly frequent bouts of ill health, Harry never lost his pleasant, patient, cooperative personality. Visitation was held in our sanctuary with a prayer service conducted by Sunrise Hospital Chaplain and friend of our congregation Rev. Jerry Blankinship who had met and befriended Harry during his periods of hospitalization. Our love and sympathy go with Harry Jr. who is now with his aunt and family in Illinois. A memorial service will be scheduled in January.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“If Heaven had a web cam, we could see what it looks like.”

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Moderator's Report

New Year is here. I hope everyone had a great Christmas.

Thanks to all who have supported this church and are planning to support next year. If you haven't filled out a pledge card yet, we can definitely still use it.

In Christ,
Dave Gaeding

Trustees' Report

The Trustees continue working to maintain and improve our Church Facility.

We are waiting to receive another bid from a lock smith for improving our security system. As this is a very expensive project we are making every effort to get the best system our budget will allow. Don Grandjean is verifying the liability issues and Russ Smethers is making arrangements to meet with Metro to make sure the perimeter fenced areas can be strengthened so as to discourage the homeless from camping behind them. The re-zoning is continuing under the direction of Al Horkay. We have contacted and are awaiting a response from an electrical lighting company as to the cost of replacing the burned out light globes in the sanctuary. The company that so beautifully and carefully shampooed the Sanctuary is preparing a bid to clean the cushions. We will keep you up to date on our progress.

With the year about over and a new one about to begin we find ourselves looking backward and forward at the same time. We look back to see what we have accomplished. The Board of Trustees has done a lot and is very proud. We are grateful for the help and support you have given to us this past year. We look forward to see what is yet to be done and how we can make it better. Church members are preparing to assume

WISHES FOR A BEAUTIFUL YEAR

I wish you –

Bunches of violets, the breeze in your hair,
eyes bright as dewdrops, people who care.
Trees swaying gently, a kitten to touch.
Fields full of clover and daisies and such.
Nights filled with stars and plenty of dreams,
days filled with laughter and dancing sunbeams.

I wish you –

A child's spontaneous hug,
a worm summer night and a lightning bug.
We wish you a barefoot run in the grass,
and friendly smiles from people you pass.
Bright colored leaves and fall in the air.
your favorite book and a rocking chair.

I wish you -

A baseball game with two grand slams,
a season's pass to see the Rams.
Lots of wins for lots of tries,
clouds of yellow butterflies.
A winter world of white,
warm gingerbread and a snowball fight.

I wish you -

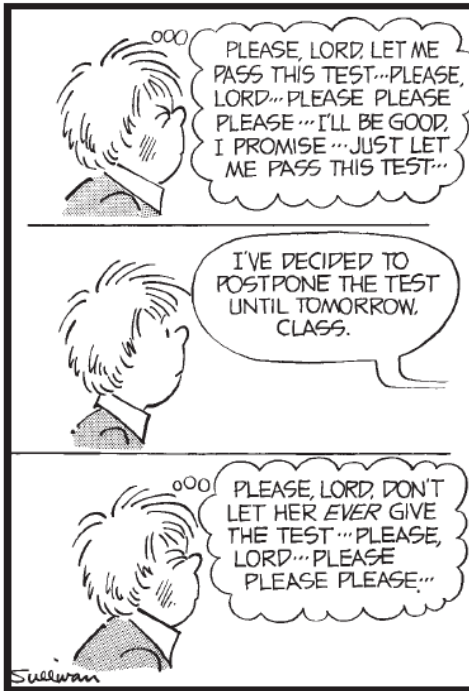
Food when you're hungry,
rest when you tire.
Someone to hold you in front of a fire.
A Springtime of daffodils,
a run down the grassy hills.
A mountain top view of a world clean and new.

I wish you -

A talk with a friend,
the touch of a hand,
a tender kiss, a walk in the sand,
a robin's sweet song,
blue skies up above.
A year and a life of peace and love.

leadership positions on the various boards. Some for the first time and some returning. There will be a short learning period but then, they will tackle the challenges eagerly. Congratulate them on their election and support them as you have this board.

Judy Skinner, Chair



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"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything You gave me.'"

—Erma Bombeck

via Shirr Keithan
Catawissa, PA

Christian Ed

Adult Education

Adult education continues to meet with members of the class sharing the responsibility of leading discussions. Coffee and donuts are always available. Please join us at 8:45 am. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about the lectionary lesson for the day.

Children's Nursery Service

During the month of January 2008, Mary and Neil Thomsen will be in the nursery during our service of worship at 10:00 am. The children start out in the sanctuary with their parents and adjourn to the nursery following the children's time. Parents then pick up their children after the close of the worship service.

Children's Worship and Education

Children enjoy a special service of worship and education created just for them from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. This service is called children and youth worship and is conducted in our Children and Youth Worship Center. Ordained storytellers lead this service in which the children hear and see a Bible story each Sunday morning. They have a period of time for "working on the story." During this work time, they are given the choice of a variety of medium through which they can express their thoughts and ideas about the story. Following their work time, the children come together once again in their sacred

circle to celebrate "the Great Feast." Here the children are reminded of the real presence of Christ as they "break bread together." This has become a very important time when children make new friends, and broaden their understanding of various cultures while worshiping God, learning about the teachings of the Bible, and experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You for Assistance

Members of the Board of Christian Education, storytellers, Pastor Ailao, children and youth, and many helpful parents, we could not have had such a delightful Christmas Eve service without you. You are truly God's hands and voices in this world. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Report on Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service was held at 7:00pm in the sanctuary at 1200 Eastern Avenue. This service was a joint effort of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa and the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Pastor Ailao led the congregation in prayer. Anita Stark and Ailao Tofaeono provided the musical accompaniment for the service. Forty-three children and youth were scheduled to perform either as readers, or actors in the pageant that presented the Christmas story from the announcement of the coming of the Christ by the prophet Isaiah through the entrance of the holy family, the arrival of the

shepherds, the journey of the magi, and the arrival of the angels to that small stable in Bethlehem. The service was conducted in both English and Samoan, and worshipers were invited to greet the participants following the service and then to adjourn to Gudmundsson Hall for hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, and carols.

Mission and Action

The Mission and Action board met for a few minutes after church.

Kay Stevens was pleased to announce that our food pantry gave out 40 turkeys for Thanksgiving to families in need.

The Neighbors in Need offering was in November and we thank you for your donations.

In December there will be a special offering for the retired ministers' fund. This is one of the four special offerings of the UCC Church.

Kay wants to thank all her committee members for their work during the year while she was chairman. She will be leaving us in the spring to move to Arizona to be near her family. We will all miss her.

The Mission and Action Board wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Suzanne Rayno
Secretary

January Birthdays

- 7 Ophelia Ricker
- 9 Bridget Gaddis
- 17 Rachel Warren
- 20 Harry Willard Jr
- 27 Hank Gilbertson

January Anniversaries

- 13 Gail & Stu Wells

On the Move

Harry Willard, Jr.
 c/o Peterson
 210 Oak Cove
 Somonauk, IL 60552-9621

Priscilla Arola
 4724 Bannister La.,
 Las Vegas, NV 89130
 656-8574



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January Volunteers

- 6 Jason Stubrich
- 13 Kent Matsuura
- 20 Ann Pomeroy
- 27 Don Schmiedel

Office Hours

Monday: 9-12
 Wednesday: 9-12
 Friday: 9-12

Other times by appointment
 We welcome calls at home
 when needed: 360-5355

Finances

	November	Year
Contributions:	4,820.50	52,873.40
Building Usage:	2,830.00	31,080.00
Other:	0.58	210.00
Total Income:	7,651.08	84,163.40
Ministry:	525.36	3,323.54
Ops & Admin:	204.72	6,406.96
Utilities:	1,408.40	11,209.21
Building & Grounds	287.16	10,156.35
Salaries:	5,557.12	55,635.42
Total Expense:	7,982.76	86,731.48
Net:	(331.68)	(2,568.08)

Contact us by email or phone

Dave Pomeroy	Pastor	davepomeroy@ucclasvegas.org	360-5355
Dave Gaeding	Moderator	Nevadadave908@aol.com	240-5194
Ann Beggs	Office Administrator	church@ucclasvegas.org	642-2220
Jim Beggs	Tech editor	clarion@ucclasvegas.org	382-9812

January Weekly Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:45 AM Adult Education 10:00 AM FCC Services 10:20 AM Youth Education 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 AM-12:00 PM Children / Youth Worship 12:00 PM Samoan 3:00 PM Iglesia 8:00 PM Romanian	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FCC Office	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Health 9:00 AM – 12:00 N Thrift Shop 10:30 AM Bread 6:00 PM Christian Ed 6:00 PM-9:30 PM Worship Leaders	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FCC Office 5:30 PM Am. FCC Dance 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Iglesia	9:00 AM-12:00 PM Health 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Thrift Shop 10:30 AM Bread 8:00 PM Romanian (Hall)	9:00 AM - 12:00 M FCC Office 8:00 PM-10:00 PM Iglesia	4:00 PM FCC Cleaning

January Special Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Christmas				
Dec 30	Dec 31	1	2	3	4	5
		New Year			7:00 PM Pinochole	10:00 AM Unhanging of the Greens
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11:00 AM Congregators 11:15 AM Budget Meeting Christian Ed.						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11:15 Trustees, Mission & Action					10:00 AM Food Pantry	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11:15 Spiritual & Parrish Life			12:00 PM Council		<i>Clarion</i>	
27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	Feb 2
11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting					7:00 PM Pinochole	
Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9
11:00 AM Congregators						

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1200 North Eastern Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

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Adult Education 8:45 AM
Sunday Service 10:00 AM
Youth Education 10:20 AM
Youth Worship 11:00 AM
Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 AM

Men's & Women's Breakfast
9:00 am every Tuesday

Pinochle January 4
**Congregators &
Budget Meeting** January 7
Food Pantry January 21
Annual Meeting January 27



Special dates

- New Year's Day January 1
- Epiphany January 6
- Baptism of the Lord January 13
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 18-25
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21