

January
2009

the Clarion!
First Congregational UCC
Las Vegas, Nevada



From the Pastor

Change.....it's what a new year brings.....it's what's in the air.....it augers possibilities that are filled with hope. This is so, even though as the old joke has it (I first heard this about Presbyterians, but it really could apply to most any religious group): "How many (fill in the blank) does it take to change a lightbulb?" Answer (in a quavering voice): "CHAAAANG?!?"



OK, so change can be scary as well as filled with possibilities. Congregations often like things to stay the way they are and to feel the comfort of time tested truths. There's some wisdom in this, too; the old saw about "don't throw out the baby with the bath water" applies to congregations that are experiencing change -- we need to feel our rootedness in the traditions of our faith even as we find new and different ways of expressing them.

We went through quite a bit of change this past year (you'll read more about this in my annual report): becoming Open and Affirming, getting a new hymnal, having a new paint job (inside and out), starting conversations about a merger.

And even bigger change is pending especially in our relationship with Northwest Community Church. You'll hear more about this as we get into 2009. But the key will be to "practice hospitality" as we come to share more of our lives together. And the other key will be to "practice patience" as we make adjustments to the changes that new relationships will bring. I am really looking forward to what will be happening, the interactions that will build up and strengthen both of our congregations, and in particular the new and re-newed relationships.

As I was thinking about this column I came across this quote which seemed to capture something of the spirit of what we will be entering in terms of new relationships:

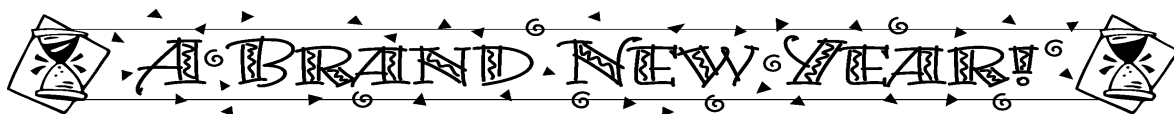
Close relationships, more than personal satisfaction or one's view of the world as a whole, are the most meaningful factors in happiness. If you feel close to other people, you are four times as likely to feel good about yourself than if you do not feel close to anyone.

Magen, Birenbaum, and Pery, 1996

This year, too, will be a time for change in our nation and society and the world in general as a new administration takes hold in Washington seeking to stem the malaise that so many have felt with the sinking economy. Wall Street seems to be mildly optimistic: articles in eastern papers this past week have had financial gurus predicting that the market will rise and the economy may turn around by the end of the year. I know no one can predict such things with certainty, but hope can be a powerful driving force, and there does seem to be a palpable sense of hope as we head into the new year.

I want to close by urging each of you to come to both of the congregational meetings in January: one to consider the 2009 budget on January 4 (a hint: you will be presented with a balanced budget) and then the Annual Meeting on January 25 when new Board members will be elected (once more: a significant sign of change in our congregation's life). I look forward to seeing you there.

Dave



Moderator

Another year has gone bye. I hope that you and your extended families enjoyed Christmas and New Year.

I would like to thank all of you for your support for the past two years. Please continue to help the bread run, food pantry and thrift shop stay alive. Due to hard times, there will undoubtedly be more families in need. I would like to express a special thanks to all the board members for their efforts, in addition to the extra efforts from Don and Nelson Grandjean in preparing our church for painting. It really looks great! More thanks are extended to Russ Smethers, Nelson and Don Grandjean for continued maintenance and repair work around the church. And, let's not forget Anita Stark for her commitment to the Thrift Shop.

In Christ, Dave Gaeding

In our Prayers

Beth Defeo is battling with cancer.
Grace Dodd is recovering from stroke.
Larry Gaddis is undergoing hospital tests.
Terry Moenoa is recovering from surgery.

Saturday morning breakfasts have inspired the idea of sisterhood that has sparked enthusiasm and energy among us. Therefore, I would like to continue with encouraging all of us to come together again spiritually on the 2nd Saturday in January (1/10/2009)

LOCATION: Gaeding residence
908 Royal Plum Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89144

TIME 9:30 a.m.

R.S.V.P. 702-240-5194

Trustees Report to Council 12/08

Trustees approved expenditure of \$1100 for air conditioner repairs. However, the contractor tells us that the A/C above the bread room will probably last only for another year. The A/C above the thrift shop does not work and needs to be replaced. A space heater is being used at the present time to heat the thrift shop.

Trustees approved the expenditure of \$835 to purchase a carpet runner for the middle aisle of the sanctuary, from the door to the first step, and the color will match the color of the pew cushions. This will hide some of the worn out carpet. The carpet is six feet wide and fifty-five long.

Many thanks to Don Grandjean, Nelson Grandjean, and Russ Smethers for all of work done during the past few weeks. They painted the north side of the church and repaired many minor things that needed to be repaired.

Al Horkay was appointed to chair an AD HOC committee to look into the cell tower lease. Suggested members to this committee were Jim Beggs, Ray Sitkiewicz, and Tom Berly (pending their okay to serve).

Russ Smethers was appointed to chair a separate committee for major fund raising projects. Their purpose will be to organize fund raisers for repair/replacement of some of our aging equipment. e.g. A/C purchase, etc.

Thanks to Kay Obenour for cleaning the carpet in the Sunday school room.

Silent Auction

A success? Yes or No. Unfortunately it was a holiday weekend & many people were out of town. However, we did have a nice turnout from our congregation & people from the Northwest Church & a few who acted upon invitations I sent them. The low turnout however, resulted in the following: Out of 82 items, 30 went at minimum opening bid & 11 were not bid on at all. Had there been more people there to increase the bids, the church could have made & should have made three times what it did. This was an important fundraiser for our church & a lot of work went into preparation. The old still holds true. However, that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. The total of the Auction was \$862.50. I want thank the people who donated the beautiful things.....& they were beautiful, & all those who helped with setup & teardown & other related duties. We owe a lot to those who bid & carried home their treasures. THANK YOU! The refreshments were great, the fellowship was great, & I'm sorry so many of you had to miss it.

*Anita Stark
Silent Auction Chairman*



Mission and Action

It's been a great but hectic year for giving food. It does not go according to plan unless we recognize that the only plan is to give it all away. The first confusion concerns who is qualified. We do not have the social network to verify all who claim need. However, we look at the parking lot a couple hours before the van arrives with bread and we are pretty confident that we are serving people who can not go to the grocery store. Also, we do not allow our clients to pick and chose. If they are hungry, they don't need to. If they aren't, they will be happier at other locations. Only when we have food left over, do we bring what's left in for whoever drops by.

The second confusion concerns random arrivals. At Thanksgiving, Ana Garcia had a large number of turkeys and hams donated to her place on Harvard Street, but our Food Pantry did not have enough turkeys to give out on Friday. The next Monday, the Bread Van brought in a large number of pies. Then Trader Joe's brought in a large number of turkeys, some of them fresh. Agripina was called to find homes for these turkeys as fast as she could. She used her lists from both the Bread Run and the Food Pantry. Also some of the pies went out as well. Others seemed to vanish in the night. The next day Ana could not find the pies, and wondered what happened. Our vigilant trustees changed locks on the Bread Room. The volunteers have just kept on giving as much as they can.

Christmas turkeys arrived ahead of the normal Food Pantry and all went very well.

Many families, who otherwise had no way to gather and celebrate in these hard times, were very grateful for the help. Others on the edge of their finances were glad to be able to use their limited resources elsewhere.

These two programs find ways to help each other. The Food Pantry receives food from private donations and buys it from Three Square. It gives its food, free of charge, on the third Friday of every month. The Bread Run picks up donations from Vons stores every day. It distributes this food in needy areas. Donations are accepted from these places as well as private donations. The combined donations are passed through our Financial Secretary and Treasurer and used to cover as much of the gas and maintenance costs of gathering the bread as it can. Trader Joes donates food to both the Food Pantry and the Bread Run. We try to save as much as we can for the Food Pantry. However, occasional deliveries of fresh produce are very gratefully redirected to the Bread Run just to get it out quickly.

One of our great pleasures is delivering bread to the Whitney School near Boulder Highway and Tropicana. The children of several classes there have written thank-you notes which have been posted on the smaller bulletin board in Gudmundsson Hall. It's truly amazing to see that homeless children are being taught social graces which escape so many others.

We are very grateful to all who have supported all these efforts. The blessings of giving are truly around us.

Worshiping Into Your Congregations Future

Save The Date!!!

January 30 - 31, 2009

Featuring:



Paul Nixon



Rev. Otis Moss, III

Senior Pastor Trinity United Church of Christ

Rev Paul Nixon

Senior Pastor The Epicenter

Christopher Grundy

Visiting Professor of Preaching & Worship at Eden Seminary

First & Only Notice for Our Church

Register by January 9

Leave Friday, January 30 before 9AM

Return Saturday, January 31 after dinner

Registration: \$130 (full) Hotel (\$85)

Contact Jim at 382-9812

or Ann at the church office.

Let's hope for enough to fill the van.

January Birthdays

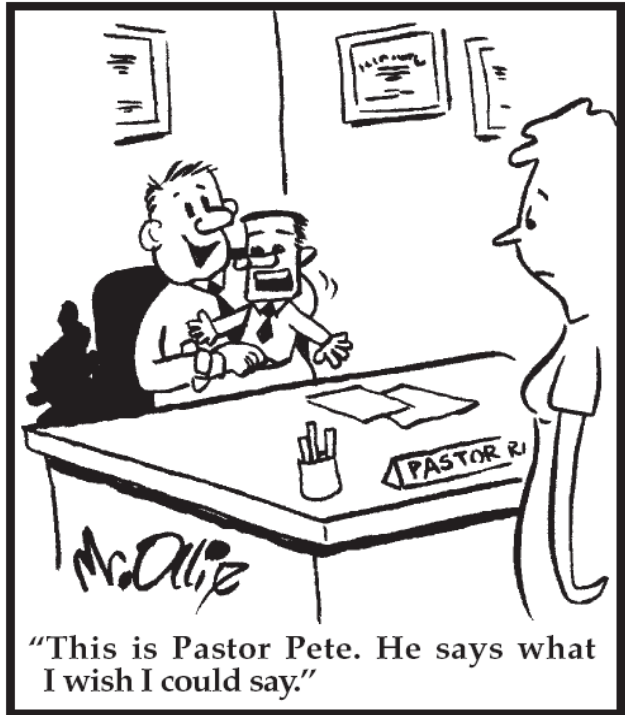
7 Ophelia Ricker
 9 Bridget Gaddis
 20 Harry Willard Jr
 27 Hank Gilbertson

Anniversaries

13 Gail & Stu Wells

Tuesday 9:00am Breakfasts

6 Cannery on Craig
 13 Arizona Charlie's Boulder
 20 Arizona Charlie's Decatur
 27 Silver Nugget



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January Liturgists

4 Betty Stratton
 11 Tom Berly
 18 Al Horkay
 25 Marjorie Branch

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

2008

Contributions:	\$7,778.28	\$52,857.73
Building Usage:	\$2,050.00	\$30,350.00
Other:	\$0.34	\$246.80
Total Income:	\$9,828.62	\$83,453.53
Ministry:	\$198.78	\$3,307.66
Ops & Admin:	\$264.34	\$5,088.47
Utilities:	\$578.34	\$8,311.07
Building & Grounds	\$540.91	\$13,810.52
Salaries:	\$6,824.43	\$59,108.79
Total Expense:	\$8,406.80	\$89,626.51
Net:	\$1,421.82	-\$6,172.98

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 12:00 PM Samoan 3:00 PM Iglesia 7:00 PM Romanian	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FCC Office 6:00 PM Samoan (hall)	9:00 AM – 12:00 N Thrift Shop 10:30 AM Bread 6:30 PM Iglesia	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FCC Office 6:00 PM Samoan (hall) 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Iglesia	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Thrift Shop 10:30 AM Bread 5:00 PM Romanian (Hall) 6:00 PM Youth Worship	9:00 AM - 12:00 M FCC Office 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM Iglesia	10:00 AM Agape 4:00 PM FCC Cleaning

January Special Events

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LAS VEGAS, NV
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First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
1200 North Eastern Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Rev Dave Pomeroy, Minister
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E-mail: church@ucclasvegas.org Web: www.uccclasvegas.org

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**January 2009 Issue
Address Service Requested.**

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

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



Pinochle January 2
Congregational Budget Meeting, Congregators January 4
Food Pantry January 16
Annual Congregational Meeting January 25
Pinochle February 6

Special dates•

- New Year's Day January 1
- Epiphany January 6
- Baptism of the Lord January 11
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 19
- Inauguration Day January 20
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25