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United Church of Christ and
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



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WE'RE ALSO ON THE WEB

www.renofirstcongregational.org

Due to continued effort to cut costs in the office, we have reduced the size and colors of this printing. Donations can be made to offset the cost of future newsletters. Please see Pastor Derril if you would be interested in sponsoring a future newsletter.



Rev. Derril Peabody

NOTES FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

Recently at a retreat, the leader asked us to participate in a game. He explained that the exercise helps us to understand that learned behavior by people (lay & clergy alike) are often practiced without thinking.

The leader asked us to fold our hands, unfold our hands, then refold our hands with the opposite fingers on top. We discussed how refolding our hands felt and found we could not do it naturally. We had to stop and think. The simple exercise demonstrates the power of learned behavior. Although it is possible to behave outside their natural preferences, doing so has an unnatural and awkward feeling to it.

This summer we are trying something new at FCC. Coupling with Light of the Soul UCC, we are offering our community two different types of worship experiences. A traditional

service at 9:30 and a contemporary gospel service at 11:00—all in the same building on the same day. Both churches are trying this new Sunday morning schedule as a test with opportunities in July to evaluate the program. The leadership of both churches made the change happen. Now it is up to us to “go with the flow” and change within ourselves and give this new opportunity to minister to Reno support.

Remember: CHANGE IS ALWAYS NECESSARY AND OFTEN EXHILARATING, BUT RARELY EASY. It makes us confront the differences in our expectations. Seeking and risking by all of us in this healthy manner can certainly lead to a faithful future for both our churches. See you Sunday!

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion.”

-Phil 1:6a



“The beauty of the world about us is only according to what we ourselves bring to it.” —Shaker saying



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RENO



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



OUR NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE

Summer 2009
June, July & August

The new Summer schedule is underway! Both services, combined fellowship and BBQ potluck drew large numbers Sunday, June 7th. 85 people attended the 9:30am service of the First Congregational Church. After worship, there was fellowship time with two cakes, made specifically for Melissa Yerxa and Mary Kapeghian, celebrating their graduation from high school. After a cup of coffee and delicious cake, many worshipers went to various parts of the campus for standing committee meetings. Missions, Stewardship, Building and Grounds, and the Diaconate met. Fellowship & Growth, and Christian Ed met at different times. The 11:00am Light of the Soul contemporary worship service was attended by their largest attendance ever, over 90 people! What a morning! What an event! What a great beginning for a Sunday!

9:30AM— First Congregational Church, UCC/DOC, traditional service
10:30AM— Fellowship & Food
11:00AM Light of the Soul UCC, contemporary service

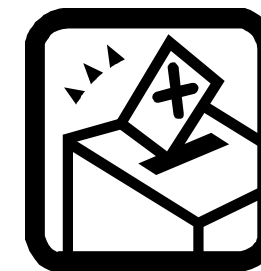
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Have you checked out the churches website? The Busick family has been working hard updating the webpage weekly: updating the weekly bulletin, showing the video of Sunday services and much more. Be sure to check out the webpage and make sure you let the Busicks know how much you appreciate their hard work and dedication to this wonderful and uplifting mission.

<http://www.renofirstcongregational.org>



YOUR INPUT COUNTS!!

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING—APRIL 14, 2009

The Complete minutes of this meeting are posted outside the church office. The following motions approved at this meeting were as follows:

- ❖ It was moved and approved to leave our financial CD at Cornerstone and to approve the treasurers report.
- ❖ It was moved and approved to create a secure lockable storage area in the CE building.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Hill, Church Council Acting Secretary

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING—MAY 12, 2009

The Complete minutes of this meeting are posted outside the church office. The following motions approved at this meeting were as follows:

- † It was moved and seconded to authorize the expenditure up to \$200 to purchase a pedestal/stanchion for the memorial book.
- † It was moved and seconded to authorize the repair/upgrade the memorial garden sign, not exceeding \$200.
- † It was moved and approved to upgrade the church office Microsoft Outlook program by purchasing Outlook 2003 or better. Motion carried.
- † It was moved and seconded the church council track the coordination and reporting the strategic plan process and arrange periodic celebrations of our process. Motion passed.
- † It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation of the liaison committee to move Sunday morning worship to 9:30am beginning June 7th and continue throughout the summer, with a congregational evaluation in July.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Hill, Church Council Acting Secretary

DIACONATE—MINUTES FROM 4/5/09

Present: Derril Peabody, Liz Tiffany-Jones, Kerry Deal, Jackie Manley, Chuck Manley, Jane Chapman and Kim Kary

- * Thank you to June Thomas, Jackie Manley and Luke Arnone for help in the construction of the Easter banners that were hung by Frank Yerxa.
- * The Diaconate budget has gone over due to over-spending on music. The new choir director will need better guidelines for spending and having the approval from the committee before ordering.
- * The Diaconate would like to appoint a committee to assist in hiring a permanent choir director.

Respectfully Submitted, Jackie Manley

DIACONATE—MINUTES FROM 4/27/09

Present: Derril Peabody, Liz Tiffany-Jones, Jackie Manley, Chuck Manley and Jane Chapman

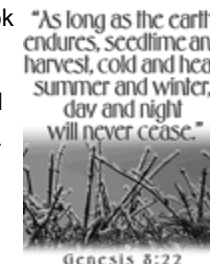
- ❖ The choir director search is going to begin and choir members are asked for input on the description. A committee will be made to fill the position.
- ❖ The organist contract also needs to be updated.
- ❖ The summer music signup schedule has been put up in the Narthex. Liz Tiffany-Jones has volunteered to handle the signups. Light of the Soul Praise band has agreed to fill in on occasion.

Respectfully Submitted, Jackie Manley

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The church offers to all who are members (or friends and adherents of the church) to dispose of the cremated remains of their loved ones in the Memorial Garden at the southeast corner of the main building. This is the only Memorial

Garden in the country, to the knowledge of the garden 's founds, to make available both in interment of the ashes of the departed person outside the building, AND a record of the life of the loved one in a Memorial Book inside the church. Normally, a service will be held inside the church, after which the ashes of the departed one will be carried for interment outside the church anywhere in the Memorial garden. A brass plaque with the name of the deceased and the dates of birth and death will be placed on the memorial board outside the church, and a page written by loved ones will be kept in the Memorial Book inside the church (along with a photo if desired). Discussion of the details will be made between the loved ones and the minister. There is a cost of \$200.00 to be paid by the loved ones to the church to pay for the plaque and the expenses of maintaining the Memorial Garden. If you are interested in more information, a brochure will be coming out soon or you may talk to Rev. Derril today.



SUNDAY SERVICE HELP—USHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Are you looking to help with Sunday Services? How about signing up to be an usher ? Here is what you would be asked to do:

1. Arrive one-half hour before church.
2. Turn on all lights: switch near bulletin stand, second near door by piano and a pair on opposite walls near vertical beams on sides near front of sanctuary.
3. Pick up and straighten pews.
4. Check to be sure offering plates are in their place.
5. Check the candles and candle lighter replacement wicks. Replacements are located in the first closet in hallway, top shelf.
6. Get bulletins from church office.
7. Twenty minutes before service, begin greeting worshippers and hand out bulletins.
8. Count the number of people at the service and write number on chart on hallway bulletin board by church office door.
9. Recruit three more people to help with offering. Gather at the back of sanctuary and come forward down the main aisle when invited.
10. One usher on each side will stay in center aisle and the other will go down the side aisle passing the offering plate down each aisle as needed.
11. Usher will gather prayer cards and place them on top of one offering plate for the minister.
12. All four come forward down the main aisle during Doxology. Leave offering plates and return to rear. Do not stay for prayer.
13. During prayer time, take a microphone to individuals wishing to make prayer requests. Get mike from sound person or Rene Biondo following Children's conversation.
14. Following worship, pick up sanctuary, extinguish candles. Place unused bulletin on work table in church office.
15. Turn off all lights.
16. During communion, serve bread and wine trays (on secretary's desk) to worshippers in the balcony.
17. Remember, along with being a terrific usher, you are a child of God!

Thank you for Serving!!

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RENO

Starting with this newsletter, we will be adding birthdays and anniversaries. If you don't see your birthday, please accept our apologies! We would appreciate a phone call if you have info you would like to share.

Summer is here, vacations are coming, but FCC still needs your help! Sunday services cannot run smoothly without your help. We need volunteers to be Liturgist, Ushers, Greeters and don't forget to volunteer for special music. How about helping with the Sunday School kids or leading the Children's conversation. Don't like speaking in front of crowds, how about signing up to help with fellowship time? Bake some fresh cookies or stop at the grocery store. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer your time, please take the time to sign up and show your talents where you can.

A NOTE FROM NOEL TIANO

"We will be missing FCC Reno as we move overseas. Thanks for your friendship, dedication and service. Please pray for my dad who is in hospice and also for the sale of our house. See you in cyberspace!!"

Cheers, Noel Tiano (noeltiano@yahoo.com)



Congratulations to our teenagers who graduated High School this year. Mary Kapeghian, from Galena High & Melissa Yerxa, from Edward C. Reed High.

Five steps to a friendlier church

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to them.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in church activities that interest them.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE

Helen Blanke	June 1
Tracy Lynn Mozley	June 4
Nora Constantino	June 5
Tesa O'Brien	June 6
Barbara Rowell	June 10
Amy Urban	June 11
Anna Jaunarajs	June 13
Karen Bennett	June 15
Allen Bruner	June 28
Becky Yerxa	June 30

JULY

Cinda deWyk	July 3
Chuck Manley	July 7
Vai O'Brien	July 14
Ruth Hart	July 15
Maoputasi Sofara	July 20
Don Jessup	July 26
June Thomas	July 30

AUGUST

Elizabeth Tiffany-Jones	August 3
Kay Sanders	August 6
Dan Hill	August 7
Marvin Mitchell	August 15
Eric Urban	August 19
Cecil Webb	August 19
Nathan Kary	August 22
John Collins	August 26
Nola Hart-Troppmann	August 26
Mary Morton	August 27
Marc Jones	August 28

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RENO

FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH— MINUTES FROM 4/5/09

Present: Renee Furst, Mike Hill, Tracy Lynn Mozley, Vai O'Brien & Becky Yerxa

- ✘ The board would like to use the small room in the CE building when the floor is fixed to store supplies for the church and that these items are used for church related activities.
- ✘ Becky has made a checklist of items the church uses and how often the items will need to be purchased. The supply list will be check the first weekend of the month to be brought to the board.
- ✘ The F&G board would like to rotate which members of their board attend the council meetings so the same members aren't responsible every time.

Respectfully Submitted, Tracy Lynn Mozley

MISSIONS—MINUTES FROM 4/5/09

Present: Jack Dunn, Laura Dunn, Betty Edwards & Martha Jessup and Barbara Rowell

- Soup Sunday was held April 19. Menu consisted of Soup, Bread, butter, coffee, punch and dessert.
- Betty Edwards has volunteered to be the new photographer for the committee.
- The missions board would like to have a missions fair where people from various organizations could speak on Sundays, followed by an international luncheon after service—possibly the end of September.

Respectfully Submitted, Martha Jessup

When you walk into Church Sunday mornings, please notice our nametags. We would like to be able to put names and faces together. Take a moment and just write your name on a tag or fill out a form to order a permanent tag. They are in-expensive and you can keep it here at

FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH— MINUTES FROM 5/10/09

Present: Mike Hill, Vai O'Brien, & Becky Yerxa

- ☺ The group discussed various ways to market the church. Mike is asking Pritchett Eye Care if a sign can be placed on their property.
- ☺ Mike was given information regarding a grant from the UCC and will be the point person for this.
- ☺ It has been some time since the last progressive dinner. Past organizers will be approached to see if they would like to spearhead this event.
- ☺ Mike volunteered to make the coffee for the June 7th service. We will try name tags for everyone to help introduce the new time.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Yerxa

MISSIONS—MINUTES FROM 5/3/09

Present: Jack Dunn, Laura Dunn, Martha Jessup and Barbara Rowell

- Soup Sunday was a success and raised \$147 and \$400 in crafts. All the proceeds went to Transformed International which aids widows & orphans.
- The board would like to find out how to get the church and information in the Saturday newspaper.
- We would like to have volunteers speak during service for approx. 5 minutes about their personal missions.
- Will be putting together a list of members of the congregation and their missions to share with the church.

Respectfully Submitted, Martha Jessup

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—MINUTES FROM 4/5/09

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—MINUTES FROM 4/5/09

- ✪ John Collins had the lawn fertilized and received a quote to mow the lawn weekly (\$55) Charles Morton has volunteered his time to mow the lawn weekly for the church.
- ✪ Spring cleaning is scheduled for April 18th at 10:00am starting with the back parking lot moving to the CE building. Cleaning jobs will include: Cut down dead trees, Trim back all shrubs, Rake leaves and bag debris, Starting the irrigation system. Time permitting, work will start on the CE building repair list.
- ✪ Fire Extinguishers: It has been approved to purchase these units at Costco. Issue at hand is purchasing the units with the church Costco card and tax exemption.

- ✪ Looking for a date for the floor repair in the CE building. Approval needed to spend several hundred dollars for the sub-floor and vinyl flooring.
- ✪ Rev. Derril has requested the B&G members develop a sub-committee to head-up remodeling the pastor's study. Don Jessup will lead this group with the intent to have a plan for the new pastor in 6-9 months.
- ✪ Don Jessup volunteered to find available grants from NV Energy to upgrade the church lighting, Sanctuary heating and ventilation air conditioning system.

Respectfully Submitted, Frank Yerxa

- Present: Lynn Arnone, Rene Biondo, Nora Constantino, Mary Morton, Kathy Odynski and Gina Tempel
- * Due to the large amount of pictures and memories, the Sharon Bowers collage will become a scrapbook. Gina will pick up cakes for fellowship time, Rene will get flowers to give to Sharon during the children's conversation.
 - * Rene will be doing the Easter Egg hunt this year following worship on Easter Sunday.
 - * The confirmation class will be having a retreat May 16-17. Fee will be approximately \$20 and families will receive a schedule and asked to help with car-

- pooling .
- * The adult forum will be postponed at this time. Gina Tempel and Jay Arnone will re-launch the "Climate Change" forum in the fall.
- * Discussion was made about combining the confirmation class and the Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) classes in the fall. No decisions were made at this time.
- * The next meeting will be held May 3, 2009 at 9:15am.

Respectfully Submitted, Lynn Arnone

STEWARDSHIP—MINUTES FROM 4/6/09

STEWARDSHIP—MINUTES FROM 5/3/09

- Present: Henry deWyk, Dave Kary and June Thomas
- ⊙ Minutes approved from February meeting.
 - ⊙ Pledges will be verified following the meeting.
 - ⊙ No decision will be made regarding non pledged givers.
 - ⊙ We will be ordering 2010 giving envelopes before April 15 to insure a 5% price reduction. We will not be billed until the items are received
 - ⊙ June will attain web sites to look at for the Stewardship campaign and provide those to the committee members to review various approaches and make an informed choice.
 - ⊙ Possibly discussed of having CCCC gatherings for new members.
 - ⊙ Next meeting will be held May 3rd following worship.

Respectfully Submitted, June Thomas

- Present: Dave Kary, June Thomas & Rev. Derril
- ⊙ Minutes approved from April meeting.
 - ⊙ Council asked Stewardship to be responsible for the memorial tree & contact appropriate family members to determine how the plaque reads.
 - ⊙ Dave is compiling a list of those who have/have not pledged to determine how/when/if needed additional contact at this time.
 - ⊙ The 2010 giving envelopes have been ordered.
 - ⊙ Discussion made to update/create a brochure for a memorial garden, explaining the services available relating to scattering of loved one's ashes.
 - ⊙ Dave presented 1st quarter 2009 stewardship reports to the congregation on April 26th.
 - ⊙ Reviewed Stewardship campaign material & discussed strategies for the 2010 campaign.
 - ⊙ Discussed working with other committees on fund raising for capital projects and reserve fund accounts for future needs.

Respectfully Submitted, June Thomas

A NOTE FOR OUR COMMITTEES

Just a reminder to all committees for the summer months. If your board is going to continue to meet during the summer months, please remember to send your minutes to the church office. Email is the easiest way for the office to receive the minutes (fccreno@sbcglobal.net) but you can also put a copy in the Office Administrator's box at the end of the mailbox station. Even if your board is not holding meetings during the summer, please be sure to check your mailboxes regularly. Bills continue to come, even during the summer. We would like to make sure our billings do not lag behind. To avoid the church being assessed late fees, please check your mailboxes on a weekly basis and sign off appropriately. Thank you for your help in this matter.

FROM THE FOREWORD BY DR. JOHN C. MAXWELL TO "THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE" BY KIRK NOWERY

The Stewardship of VISION

I have written extensively and spoken frequently on the subject of vision because it is vital to effective leadership. One cannot be successful in leading or in life without vision, for it enables us to see opportunities and see objectives. However, it is possible to have vision and not use it, to see a goal and not pursue it. This is where

the matter of stewardship is crucial: a God-given vision finds its fulfillment through purposeful action. As Kirk explains, many people have big dreams that remain unrealized because they fail to steward the very thing God has put in their hearts. Vision must motivate and encourage you to keep pressing toward the goal. When the goal is clearly seen, life's race is run with greater fervor.

