

June  
2009

*the Clarion!*  
First Congregational UCC  
Las Vegas, Nevada



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## From the Pastor

Recently, one of our members was asking me about differences between First Congregational and Northwest Community churches, and the conversation went in the direction of “are there differing kinds of UCC churches?” Well, that’s the kind of question that has both a “yes” and a “no” answer to it. Like any mainstream denomination the United Church of Christ has within its broad fellowship congregations that range along a spectrum from “conservative” to “liberal” (although I personally feel that those designations aren’t very helpful in getting at the soul of any given congregation), “liturgical” to “non-

liturgical”, “evangelical” to “ecumenical”. We also need to recognize that churches within the UCC come from four different streams in our American religious make-up: Congregational, Christian, Evangelical, Reformed. (If you want to know more about the details of what each of these streams has brought to the formation of the UCC, ask me – that’s more detail than I want to go into in a short column; it’s also something that we go over in confirmation classes.)

June is a time when we have particular opportunities to reach out and participate in our wider denominational connectiveness. At the beginning of the month (June 4-6) the Southern California Nevada Conference holds its Annual Gathering in Claremont, CA. Four from FCC will be going – Ann and myself, Ann and Jim Beggs. I always wish that more would take the occasion to attend one of these gatherings – they do such a good job of helping us see how congregations working together through an entity like a Conference can do so much more than churches working by themselves. Plus which there is lively worship, helpful workshops, and the chance to “rub elbows” with people from the variety of cultures that make up this Conference.

I know that we sometimes feel isolated out here at the eastern edge of the conference and even of our Eastern Association. Thus, it was quite a nice gesture for the Youth Round Table of the Conference to make the effort to come all the way here for an over-night in our church. I hope some of you had a chance to talk with them on Sunday morning (May



**UCC FAMILY  
GATHERINGS**

17) and become energized by the spirit that these young people bring to their mission and ministry. And it looks like we will have an opportunity to have other Eastern Association churches and congregations meet here when that Association meeting is held at our church on Saturday, November 7. Look for more information about this activity as we head into the fall – but be sure and put that date on your calendar now.

One other indication that the Conference feels good about this corner of Nevada is the possibility that Las Vegas may have its own Section that deals with accepting clergy into the Conference and tracking what happens with the clergy. Again, you'll hear more about this possibility as it develops.

Then, at the end of the month (June 26-30) we tie into our national denomination with the bi-annual General Synod, which this year is in Grand Rapids, MI. Three of us will be attending – myself and the Beggs's – and, again, this is an experience I would covet for many of you. A new General Minister and President will be elected to succeed John Thomas. There will be an emphasis on youth activities and mission-oriented projects. And among other exciting programs will be this on Sunday morning: all delegates and visitors will be invited to participate in Sacred Conversations on Race. Many churches have been engaged in these conversations over the last year, and the conversations at General Synod will be an opportunity to expand these sacred conversations beyond our internal and personal experiences to institutional and societal issues related to race.

We are proud to be part of a denomination that engages in activities like this. I would hope that we affirm our United Church of Christ affiliation in so many ways – and in particular through the activities of our Association, Conference, and national offices.

Dave

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## Memorial Service

A beloved member of our congregation and a strong alto in our choir, Betty Stratton, died on March 24 at age 81. A memorial service was held as part of worship on April 26, with a beautiful re-counting of her life by Anita Stark, a liturgical dance offering by Ann Pomeroy, and reminiscences by many people from the church who had come to know and love her in the four years she lived in Las Vegas. She will be very much missed.



## Spiritual & Parish Life

We welcomed Deborah Gaeding as the interim board member after the loss of Betty Stratton

## Old Business

Care Groups We have a new attendance recording system thanks to Sean McLean. It needs inputting when Ann Beggs gets

back before the Board can get our latest data. If anyone has noticed that a member has been absent from church for a while, please let a board member know to follow up.

### Deborah Gaeding's Assignment

Her care list will include: Jeannette and Kazuo Matzuura Susie Block, Larue Knauss, and Ofelia and Mark Ricker. She will also continue to co-ordinate with Dick Stubrich to follow up with any visitors.

### Pastor's Report

New member Sunday is scheduled for the second Sunday in June. Possible new members: Jeff and Vanessa Rice and a few others.

Dave has made phone calls to several who haven't been here for awhile; it would be good if Care Group leaders could follow through with these as well.

### **Brochure**

A brochure from a local church was passed around for review as an example of what we can do. Further discussion is needed regarding this project. It is important to see the brochure as a tool useful in building up the energy level of the church. Please pick up a couple and give them to friends or leave them in places where someone new may hear of us.

### **Lay Member Contacts**

Deborah Gaeding advised that the visitors she has contacted are "investigating churches" and have not yet decided on a church home although they found us welcoming.

### S&P Fund

Steven Pederson will remind the congregation next Sunday of the need for their help in building this fund.

16 additional hymnals have been ordered. We will remind the congregation **there are still hymnals available for memorials.**

Congratulations to Anita Stark for the well deserved recognition of this year's Layperson of the Year.

Summer Pastoral Supply: we still need to fill three Sundays during Pastor Dave's absence. So far: John Kohl, Tom Perl, Kay Obenour, David Krueger-Duncan, Al Horkay have agreed to serve.

**No one has agreed to host the fellowship hour for July. Please consider helping and sign up on the bulletin board in Gudmundsson Hall.**

### **New Business**

Disposal of many old hymnals: we are in the process of identifying the old hymnals and checking with other churches to see who can use them. Some members of the congregation have expressed an interest in keeping one for their own use, which we will provide.

Discussion on continuing conversation about merger with Northwest Community Church: the Pastors have begun talking about the possibility of merging the congregations of FCC and Northwest. This is in the preliminary stages and will continue for months to come. The merger exploration committee may be reactivated.

Ann Pomeroy, Co-Chair

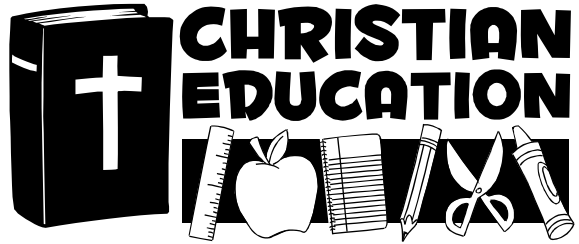
## Trustees' Meeting

In their meeting on Sunday, May 10, 2009, the Board of Trustees voted to accept a proposal to repair the sanctuary roof. Immediate financing will be accomplished by what has come to be known as our "Rainy Day Fund" along with a combination of a donation and a loan from Northwest Community Church. That special fund will be replenished and the loan paid by a temporary increase in the rent paid by the other congregations who share our facilities. Exact amounts and terms will be determined at a later date.

Once the roof repair is underway, there are a number of other items on the Trustees' current "Wish List" which will be shared with all of the congregations here at 1200 North Eastern. All of these items require a commitment of resources -- primarily monetary, but also the time and talent of many church members. By sharing this list with all, it is hoped that some will step forward to provide these resources in whatever manner they are able. The board recognizes that as those wishes come true, the day-to-day operating expenses must still be met. To pay those bills, members are counted upon to add to their pre-vacation checklist to fulfill their pledges to the church even in their absence.

The next Trustees' meeting is scheduled for June 7th. Ideas and comments are always welcome and should be emailed to the board Chair, Neil Thomsen, at [mnthomsen@aol.com](mailto:mnthomsen@aol.com) or sent to him via regular mail to the church.

Marty Perl, Secretary



## Preschool and Elementary Christian Education

The summer curriculum is here for our Preschool and Elementary Christian Education class. This class is conducted during the worship service, following the Children's Message. Summer teachers are posted on the bulletin board in the Children and Youth Worship Center. Thanks to both teachers and students for making this program a success.

## Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's off to camp we go . . .

Summer fast approaches and campers are packing their bags for Pilgrim Pines. Well, if they are not yet packing, they are at least thinking about it. And at camp, mail call is one of the greatest times of the day, IF you have mail. If you would like to drop our campers a note, you might want to write it the week before their expected arrival so that it will be there to greet them. This year campers are going to camp in three different weeks. Following is the schedule: Week 1, Casey and Caitlin Orozco will be in camp on July 5, Week 3, Maddy Farago will be in camp on July 19, and Week 5, Harry Frink and Carrie Orozco will be in camp on August 2. If you would like to send a note to them, you may address it to them by: Name, Identify their week, and

send it to Pilgrim Pines, 39570 Glen Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

Campers, good luck and have fun!

### **Children and Youth Worship**

What a joy it has been to complete a second year of partnership between First Congregational Church, UCC and Etena Fou, CCCAS in the Children and Youth Worship program. As we continue to try to find the ideal time to offer this program, I am pleased that we have a committed group of storytellers and children. Thanks to all for your work, support, and participation in Children and Youth Worship. As we anticipate a summer break, we will continue to prepare for our third year!

### **Campership Fund**

June 21, 2009, what a great day. It is Father's Day and we certainly want to wish all fathers a great day! It is also the last fundraiser for this camper year for our congregation. It's HOT DOGS for HOT DADS! Won't you join us following worship, eat a hot dog and make a donation to our campership fund. Thanks.

### **Adult Education**

Dear Friends,

Jesus was a teacher. We are Jesus' disciples. We are certainly called to worship God and to love one another, but it seems to me that we are also called to LEARN. On Sunday morning, we make every effort to learn more about the teachings of the BIBLE and God's will for our lives. This education is free to each and every member and friend of First Congregational Church, United Church of

Christ. It is easy to find us, we are located in Gudmundsson Hall on Sunday morning at 9:00am. If you understand yourself to be a disciple of Christ, and therefore a learner with us, won't you consider joining us on Sunday morning? We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas and we continue to work to become better disciples.

Your friends in the Adult Education Class P.S. Marjorie Branch is leading the final discussion based on selected sermons of Jeremiah Wright. The focus is JOY. Won't you consider joining us? It would be a JOY to have you join us!

### **ABC Library**

Welcome to the Library! It is a delight to see that you and others who visit our facility at 1200 Eastern Avenue are using the ABC Library. It is indeed our wish that you will choose to: Adopt a book, Borrow a book, and/or Contribute a book from/to our Library. And, if you get a chance to straighten a shelf once in a while, thanks for your help. I am delighted to see that both children and adults are visiting the Library and are handling the books! Keep up the good work.

### **Youth Fellowship**

The joint gathering of the FCC, UCC and the CCCAS youth took place on Thursday evening, May 14. Kay had promised to bring pizza for those that were gathering, but unfortunately, an elephant sat on her chest that morning, and she was not able to make it. And, Jason Stubrich had an event at school, but So'o Tofaeono and Samatha Patterson, were there to co-lead the

activities. Also, a big THANK YOU to Carolyn Patterson for her adult presence at the Youth Fellowship meetings. Conversations are in process concerning next year. Maybe we could convince the youth of NW Community to join us, then all three UCC churches worshipping at 1200 Eastern Avenue could come to know one another better and also to work together to do God's will in this part of the world. Thanks to all youth who participated, and thanks to all who worked to support our youth this year!

Kay Obenour, Superintendent



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In April, 1967, the Earle Family was off to Hacienda Heights, CA, to build a new church building.

Our Interim Minister was Rev. David Newell, Chaplain at Nellis Air Force Base. He and his wife, Diane, and new baby soon left in June for Southern California also. The pulpit was filled mostly by Moderator Walt Martini and other local speakers.

Pastor Earle made sure there was good leadership on the boards and committees. In spite of many families moving, they were able to carry on until a new permanent minister was found.

A Conference-sponsored Identity Group was formed in Jan. 1967. It was chaired by Don Schmiedel and worked at getting out the word of who the United Church of Christ was. There were newspaper ads in the Review-Journal and flyers were available for bulletin boards at laundromats, grocery stores, etc.

A Memorials and Gifts Committee led by chair "Doc" Paul Titus was set up in 1966 to formally keep track of all the donated money. The book later disappeared and was mostly recreated and kept by Norma Cascadden until 1993 when she died.

In 1966-67 the Chancel Choir continued with new members joining and old ones moving. It was led by Gladys Martini and then Don Schmiedel with Gladys helping on special holidays and in the summer. The Junior Choir was active with Jody Delaney director and after she moved by Jean Cool

and Pat Vandeventer. Jean Cool was the organist.

The Youth Groups were very active with advisors Ray and Adelle Eicher with the help of Pastor Earle and Father Swink from St. Luke's. The combined Sunday School Classes continued with teachers from both churches. Scouting was sponsored by our church. Mark Clark and Tom Fleming received their God and Country Awards in 1966.

The Couples Club had stops and starts in the Spring and Fall and somewhere dropped the name Congregators. It was revived in Jan., 1967, and continued into 1968. More next time!

The "Parish News" newsletters edited by Jean May were written until Jan., 1966, when Carolyn Ream began editing the Congregational Clarion in booklet form. Rose Turner was editor in 1967.

Priscilla Women's Fellowship continued with their rummage sales, newly named Attic Sales, in the new building, chaired by Isabel Holman and Rose Turner. Money was raised to help pay for carpeting, pews, and local expenses. Leftover clothing and a special clothing drive also produced clothes for a special project for Church Women United. Clothing was also given locally to the Salvation Army. The Priscillas continued their study of other churches and also started a sewing group to help make things for mission projects. Their Thrift Shop and Pine Cone Wreath project also helped financially.

The Men's Visitation Committee was a

visitation program for prospective members. There was also a Capital Funds Drive to help pay for our new church building and also to help raise money for a new building on the slab next door because we needed space for our growing Sunday School. With all the special fundraising, we barely met our operating expenses even with denominational help as an "aided church."

The Deacons and Deaconesses started a small-group neighborhood fellowship. There was a baseball team and a basketball team sponsored by the church. The bridge group continued.

The Strip Ministry Program continued with Rev. Rick Mawson leading several volunteers from our congregation, plus helpers from the New York Offices, and other local help.

We were visited in Feb., 1966, by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Eymann, missionaries from the Phillipines, and in April, 1967, by Millard Fuller who had just returned from visiting all of the UCC missions in Africa. He was just organizing what became Habitat for Humanity. Fuller died in the early part of 2009.

Next time: A new minister.

Grace Schmiedel, Historian

“Laughter is like changing a baby’s diaper. It doesn’t permanently solve anything, but it makes things more acceptable for a while.”

—Tennyson Guyer

via Bruce Johnson  
Lynwood, WA

## Mission & Action

**Bread Run:** Rick Poole has offered to help with maintenance on van. We'll certainly need it. Expenses are still going to be high.

Robin Monteval, our driver on Tuesday and Thursday has come through cancer surgery for the third time. This time we feel she is very much ahead of the possibility of trouble, but we are all waiting to hear the lab results. She hopes to be driving as this issue of the Clarion gets to the post office on Tuesday.

We are seeing many more men at our distributions. Apparently many women are finding jobs. That sounds somewhat encouraging for our economy, but the number of needy using our services is still high.

The **Food Pantry** is miraculously operating without any space other than that used by its freezers in Gudmundsson Hall. That means someone (whose initials are Don Grandjean and Tom Berly) is very timely on trips to 3-Square. Good job guys, but we really have to work on storage space for this very needed outreach.

The pew from the loft and intended for **Sandy Valley** did not fare well during extraction. Significant repairs will be needed before it can be used. Perhaps we should think again about trying to preserve its original size. The Samoan congregation is very appreciative of all our kind thoughts as they develop this unique ministry.

**Annual Gathering** will be June 5, 6 in Claremont. Ann, Ann and companions are going so far.

Ann and I will join Dave in Grand Rapids for **General Synod** June 26 to July 1. Clarion and Council will be early so we can go.

A **Crop Walk** preparatory meeting will be covered by Dave Pomeroy as this Clarion is mailed. All board members have other conflicts. We look forward to being the first walk of the fall for Church World Service.

**Eastern Association Fall Meeting** is now supported by this board as an event to be held at our church. If all goes as expected, our American Samoan church will join the UCC at that meeting. Other than one building, we will need to supply lunch for between fifty and one hundred attendees. With three UCC congregations in our building, plus two more in our valley, plus several on the path to joining, we should be able to find the local talent to insure that no one leaves hungry. We wish Dave luck as he promotes this idea.

Jim Beggs, Chair

### Members on the Move

Sam Donovan  
4285 Hildebrand Lane #376  
LV 89121.

### Nursery Attendant and Coffee Hostess for June

Jean Sitkiewicz.

Here are some of Poor Richard's (Ben Franklin's) maxims on health:

- If you would live long, live well; for folly and wickedness shorten life.”
- Eat to live, and not live to eat.”
- To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.
- Many dishes, many diseases.
- Eat few suppers and you will need few medicines.
- I saw few die of hunger; of eating – 100,000.
- He who won't be counselled, can't be helped.

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



“Who scribbled ‘Play with us’ in my appointment book?”

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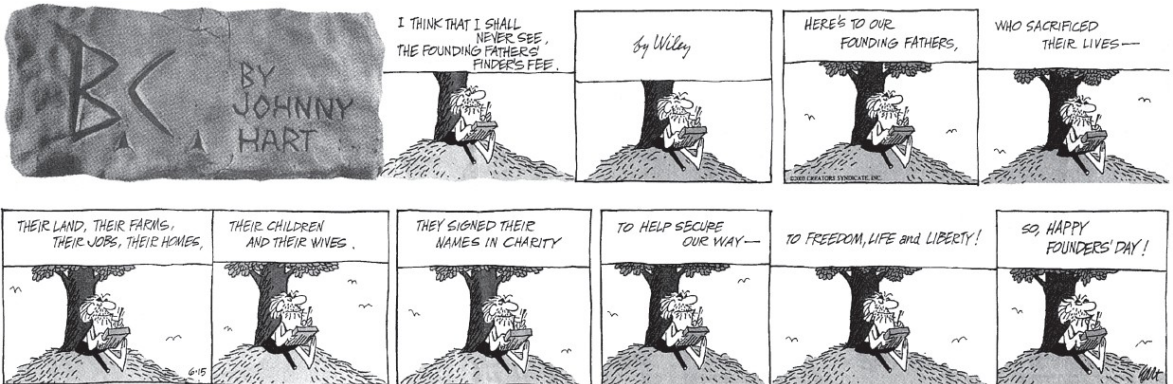
**Hooray for fathers**

A Houston newspaper asked readers to send in thoughts about their fathers. Letters flooded in, and what people wrote about their fathers is most inspiring.

A few comments:

- Dad was always there for me. He sacrificed to make sure that we had what we needed.
- When disappointment came my way, Dad said, “Son, real life ain't about getting what you want but more about doing something with what you get.”
- My dad was disabled, but he worked hard to make sure we children had a good education and lived moral lives. He would say, “I want you to succeed more than I did.”
- My dad wanted us to be Christians and took us regularly to church.

What would you write about your father?



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## June Weekly Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 AM FCC Adult Education Northwest Services 10:00 AM Northwest Coffee Hour 10:30 AM FCC Services 10:50 AM FCC Youth Education 11:30 AM FCC Coffee Hour 12:30 PM Samoan 3:00 PM Iglesia 7:00 PM Romanian	9:00 AM - 12:00 P M FCC Office 6:00 PM Youth Worship 6:00 PM Samoan (sanc) 7:00 PM Iglesia	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Thrift Shop 10:30 AM Bread 6:30 PM Amer. Samoan (Hall) 6:30 PM Iglesia	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FCC Office 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Iglesia 7:00 PM NWC Bible Study	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Thrift Shop 10:30 AM Bread 6:30 PM FCC Choir 8:00 PM NWC Choir 8:00 PM Romanian (Hall)	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FCC Office 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM Iglesia	10:00 AM Agape Dancers 10:00 AM Amer. Samoan (hall) 4:00 PM FCC Cleaning

## June Special Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<b>Memorial Day</b>					
31	Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6
<b>Church School Day Pentecost Strengthen the Church</b>					Annual Gathering 7:00 PM Pinochle	Annual Gathering
Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13
<b>Trinity Sunday 11:30 AM Congregators 11:45 AM Trustees, Christian Ed., Mission &amp; Action(tbd)</b>						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Flag Day 11:45 AM Spiritual &amp; Parish Life</b>			<b>11:00 AM Council</b>		10:00 AM Food Pantry <i>Clarion</i>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Fathers Day					General Synod	General Synod
28	29	30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4
General Synod	General Synod	General Synod			7:00 PM Pinochle	
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11
<b>11:30 AM Congregators 11:45 AM Christian Ed., Mission &amp; Action</b>						

<p><b>June Birthdays</b></p> <p>1 Bill Thomas  5 Pat Manning  6 Casey Ann Orozco  9 Gordon Root  13 Kira Smethers  13 Ruth Hammond  19 Anita Stark</p>	<p><b>June Liturgists</b></p> <p>7 Ray Sitkiewicz  14 Marty Perl  21 Jason Stubrich  28 Jeanette Matsuura</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 9:00am Breakfasts</b></p> <p>2 Denny's on W Charleston  9 Cannery on Craig  16 Arizona Charlie's on Decatur  23 Omelet House and More  30 Arizona Charlie's on Boulder Hgwy</p>																																				
<p><b>Anniversaries</b></p> <p>17 Carolyn &amp; Jeff Patterson  27 Ray &amp; Jean Sitkiewicz</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Finances</b></th> <th><b>April</b></th> <th><b>2009</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Contributions:</td> <td>\$5,334.20</td> <td>\$20,526.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building Usage:</td> <td>\$3,750.00</td> <td>\$11,620.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other:</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$56.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Income:</b></td> <td><b>\$9,084.20</b></td> <td><b>\$32,202.58</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry:</td> <td>\$669.33</td> <td>\$1,396.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ops &amp; Admin:</td> <td>\$525.48</td> <td>\$3,035.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Utilities</td> <td>\$822.78</td> <td>\$3,023.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building &amp; Grounds</td> <td>\$309.92</td> <td>\$3,069.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salaries:</td> <td>\$5,400.55</td> <td>\$21,403.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Expense:</b></td> <td><b>\$7,728.06</b></td> <td><b>\$31,928.06</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Net:</b></td> <td><b>\$1,356.14</b></td> <td><b>\$274.52</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Finances</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>2009</b>	Contributions:	\$5,334.20	\$20,526.30	Building Usage:	\$3,750.00	\$11,620.00	Other:	\$0.00	\$56.28	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$9,084.20</b>	<b>\$32,202.58</b>	Ministry:	\$669.33	\$1,396.08	Ops & Admin:	\$525.48	\$3,035.50	Utilities	\$822.78	\$3,023.46	Building & Grounds	\$309.92	\$3,069.08	Salaries:	\$5,400.55	\$21,403.94	<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$7,728.06</b>	<b>\$31,928.06</b>	<b>Net:</b>	<b>\$1,356.14</b>	<b>\$274.52</b>
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<p><b>Office Hours</b></p> <p>Monday: 9-12  Wednesday: 9-12  Friday: 9-12  Other times by appointment  We welcome calls at home  when needed: 360-5355</p>																																						

<b>Contact us by email or phone</b>			
<p>Dave Pomeroy  Marjorie Branch  Ann Beggs  Jim Beggs</p>	<p>Pastor  Moderator  Office Administrator  Tech editor</p>	<p>davepomeroy@ucclasvegas.org  moderator@ucclasvegas.org  church@ucclasvegas.org  clarion@ucclasvegas.org</p>	<p>360-5355  263-2373  642-2220  382-9812</p>



**Feedback:** Please help us serve this community better. Send us a name of a friend who might be interested in the Clarion, or send us a birthday or anniversary, or let us know what's on your mind. Mail it to the address overleaf, or drop it in the office or in the offering plate.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday, Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

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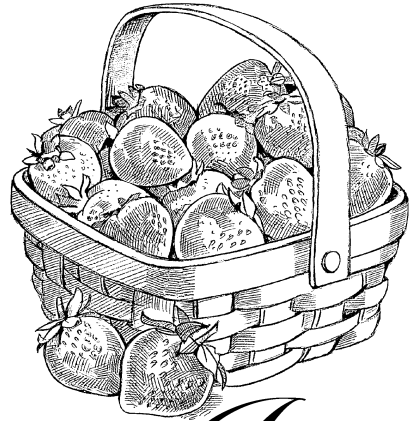
Rev Dave Pomeroy, Minister  
 Phone: 702 642-2220 FAX: 702 642-3642  
 E-mail: church@ucclasvegas.org Web: www.uccclasvegas.org

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**June 2009 Issue**  
**Address Service Requested.**

*Adult Education~~~~~9:00 AM*  
*Sunday Service~~~~10:30 AM*  
*Youth, Nursery~~~~~10:50 AM*  
*Coffee & Fellowship~ 11:30 AM*

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



# June

**Pinochle~~~~~June 5**  
**Annual Gathering~~~June 5, 6**  
**Congregators~~~~~June 7**  
**Food Pantry~~~~~June 19**  
**General Synod~~~~June 26-30**  
**Pinochle~~~~~July 3**

**Special dates**

- Trinity Sunday June 7
- Flag Day June 14
- Father's Day June 21
- First day of summer June 21