

November  
2010

# The Clarion!

First Congregational Church UCC



---

## From the Pastor

Go out and vote on November 2 (or before, if you believe in early voting) – using your Christian conscience as a good guide for your preferences.

Give a generous pledge to your church for 2011 on November 14.

Get a healthy “attitude of gratitude” as you approach Thanksgiving on November 25.

There.....now I’ve said everything significant there is to say about November.

No? Not quite? Ok, here’s a day we don’t pay a whole lot of attention to in our Protestant tradition: November 1. All Saints’ Day.

In the Roman Catholic tradition this is a very solemn day when all those who have been beatified are remembered. It is actually a national holiday in many historically Catholic countries. And, as many of you know, Halloween (or All Hallows Eve) precedes All Saints’ Day as a time when spirits roam across the earth.

However, this day does have an importance in some Protestant denominations, as well. In the United Methodist Church, All Saints’ Day is on the first Sunday in November. It is held, not only to remember saints, but also to remember all those who have died that were members of the local church congregation. We tend to do this in connection with Memorial Day in May; but it’s nice to see that some Protestants can take this Catholic tradition and turn it into something of significance that helps to move beyond the candy-gorging indulgences of Halloween.

One other cultural note, for those of you who thrilled to their Super Bowl victory last February, the New Orleans Saints franchise was awarded on All Saints’ Day, November 1, 1966.

All Saints’ Day has a long history. On May 13 in 609 or 610, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon to the Blessed Virgin and all the martyrs. So far as the Western Church generally is concerned, the November festival of all the saints was already widely celebrated in the days of Charlemagne; it was made a day of obligation throughout the Frankish empire in 835, by a decree of Louis the Pious, issued "at the instance of Pope Gregory IV and with the assent of all the bishops," which confirmed its celebration on the first of November.

So, why make a big deal out of it? Because it is an opportunity for us to reflect on “all saints known and unknown” – in other words, those who have gone before us in the faith and who have provided “the shoulders on which we stand”. I think of Pastor Gudmundsson, whose portrait adorns the hall that bears his name.....and so many of the pastors who have shepherded this congregation. But even more so are the many lay people who have had positions of leadership and who have helped to shape who we are today. Grace Schmiedel’s wonderful articles that appear here from time to time give testimony to all those saints for whom we can be grateful.

So, All Saints’ Day and Thanksgiving actually bookend November quite well – giving us a month in which we can offer our gratitude for those who have come before.....and for the work that is still given to us to do. Let’s be about it with happy hearts.

Dave



## Mission & Action

CROP Walk will be upon us as you are receiving this Clarion. On Sunday, October 24, we will have walked just over 2 miles starting at Christ Episcopal Church. Registration begins at 1:15 pm. The walk begins at 2:00 pm.

We have seven walkers this year. They have been working hard on short notice. We thank all who have supported these good people and look forward to supporting Church World Service in its fight against hunger throughout the world.

The Bread Run is gaining new energy through Robert Weyburn of First Christian Church. He has found a source of donations in Henderson. We have to be careful about gas expenses. We are experimenting with changing our schedules to minimize travel times and distances.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we must remember that giving to others is sometimes personal as well as monetary. While the Bread Run helps the family with its budget, some of us would like to also point a family in the direction of those special foods which we enjoy.

The board of Mission and Action will be collecting any foods which members of the congregation would like to give to a needy family. Both Ana Garcia and Dave Pomeroy have volunteered to ensure that all foods are given to friends and family of our congregation along with as many baskets as we can muster. We will be collecting right up to the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please drop any donations at the office or the bread room or with any member of our board.

The ESL computer is operating in a shared space in the nursery. We are in the last stages of trying to minimize costs while providing a worthwhile service to this neighborhood. We expect to be ready for real learning this month.

We thank all those who contributed to the Neighbors In Need offering on World Communion Sunday. Through this offering, the UCC supports many efforts by congregations in their work to promote justice and peace in this nation and others.

World AIDS Day will be celebrated at Congregation Ner Tamid at 7 pm. on December 1. The AIM Candlelight Service will again feature choirs and speakers honoring those living with AIDS, those helping victims of AIDS, and those we have lost because of AIDS. Please join in the many congregations of the AIDS Interfaith Ministries at this service in a very beautiful synagogue near Green Valley Parkway and I-215.

During the Christmas season, this board asked the congregation, through donations to the UCC Christmas Fund, to remember the clergy of the UCC who have retired with marginal pensions. Many of us remember this fund as Veterans of the Cross. The name has changed, but the need is still there. Many clergy have answered the call where they felt a need, without the means to prepare for retirement. We are grateful for their dedication and glad to help as we are able.

Jim Beggs, Chair

## Spiritual and Parish Life Board

*Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides, and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, humankind will have discovered fire.*

*--Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

Our meeting was declared a success in that it was relatively brief.

Perhaps church meetings which really matter are short and to the point. We hope that is an example for all groups on our leadership Sundays.

The board chair is moving so the major items discussed are really a list of things to be developed and implemented in the future.

We again discussed guidelines for the relief fund. The intention of the guidelines is to assist each person a few times and then to have a waiting period; to try to do directed checks made out to landlords and other vendors; and to do grocery gift cards. The purpose of having guidelines is to make the assistance consistent and fair. It is also to recognize the limitations of our limited funding. It is also to encourage each of you to make regular contributions to the relief fund even when it is not the subject of a special announcement.

Also discussed again was the use of name tags. Those will become available in the near future employing simple vinyl covers and lanyards so they will be simple to administer.

An additional item discussed was the Advent schedule. This will be coordinated with the able assistance of the Rev. Judith Vicari. We hope to have a Christmas Eve service, which may involve some of our other UCC congregations.

The chair again encouraged the continuation of articles in the Clarion regarding each of the ministries, programs, and special interests of members of the church. To date articles have appeared regarding the Agape Dancers, Tuesday breakfasts, and the food pantry. The purpose of the articles is to encourage the open flow of information so that new members might feel more welcome.

With faith we have the promise that there is always a better future. I bid you fond farewell.

Submitted by Thomas Perl, Chair





## **CAMPERSHIP**

In the last few issues of the Clarion our campers (all 8) stated how valuable Pilgrim Pines summer camp experience have been to them. Please support them in their monthly luncheons (2nd Sundays of each month). This month Betty Frink is chairing a "Hot Soup" special on Nov. 14. Come and enjoy a hot bowlful of soup with us after the worship service. There will be many varieties to whet your appetite, and your financial donations are very much appreciated.

# Christian Education

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Under the able guidance of Marjorie Branch, past moderator, this class continues to meet at 9AM before worship service. Please consider joining us for stimulating discussions.

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

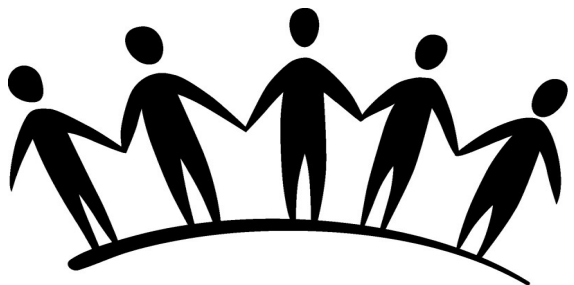
Teacher this month is Carolyn Patterson and she welcomes children to join her during worship service. Lessons are gleaned from the lectionary and Pastor Dave's messages.

Jeanette Matsuura, Chair

October 23<sup>rd</sup> we were blessed with a lovely fall day with the smell of hotdogs on the grill and sounds of kids and adults playing volleyball, horseshoes and other games. There were 4 different congregations represented by about 50 people having fellowship and fun.

Look for another movie night coming in November.

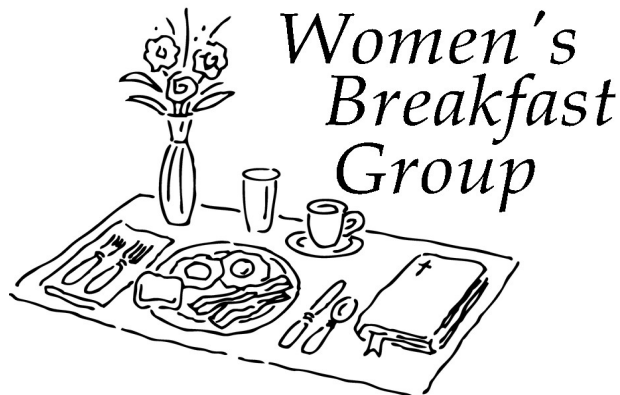
Nelson Grandjean



# U.C.C. Parish

We thank the Woman's breakfast group for their contribution of \$204.00 to be paid on the principal of the new A/C loan. Both the Woman's and Men's group meet for breakfast every Tuesday at 9:00 AM at different locations.

Please check page #11 for breakfast locations.



## Women's Breakfast Group



Ron Renaud - New Therapy

Betty Neiswender - Speedy Recovery

We would like to welcome  
**Jerry Hurley and John Osuch**  
to our church family!



## Welcome New Members!



The Trustee's have been busy looking at several different projects:

We are having the carpet in the hall replaced with tile to ease the burden of having it cleaned once a month.

The 2 lights at the front of the church are also being replaced; they work sometimes but other times they fail.

The new A/C duct work will be covered by wood to protect it from being crushed by individuals trying to use it for a platform while climbing onto the roof.

The Trustee's have also accepted an offer from Wireless Capital concerning the Sprint Cell Tower contract. Wireless Capital will buy out our contract with Sprint for \$50,000 and help bring in new cellular companies to place cellular antennas upon the Church providing additional revenue. Wireless Capital will manage the negotiations with the new companies and we will receive 50% of the negotiated contract.

The Trustee's would like to thank Al Horkay and all others involved with the 3 years of discussions and contract negotiations.

Nelson Grandjean  
Board of Trustees

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE UCC CONFERENCE**

The Southern California/Nevada Conference in cooperation with the Cuban Council of Churches is hosting a trip to Cuba from January 5th-14th, 2011. The group of 20 will meet Cuban Church Leaders and Church Members.

To learn more about what's happening in your Conference go to [www.scncucc.org/voices](http://www.scncucc.org/voices)



Dear Members and Friends,

Soon you'll be receiving that annual greeting from Al Horkay and the Stewardship Committee. But, hey, it's better than the one that used to read "Greetings! Your friends and neighbors have selected you." ... but every bit as serious and urgent.



Each year, the Budget Committee, made up of the officers and chairs of the Boards of the church, prepare what is known as a CHALLENGE BUDGET ... and then they challenge us to meet their goals. And just like NPR (NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO), it is essential that we do so in order to keep First Congregational Church running. The main difference between FCC and NPR is that we have no public supporters who match our contributions, dollar for dollar, as they do on the radio. And this marks *another year* when Steve Wynn has failed to dole out special favors for those who contribute.

By now, I'm sure you get where I'm going with this. It's up to us and us alone to support the place we call our church home. We've been handling this mission, more or less in good stead for many years, and because of your generosity and steadfastness, we will do so again this year.

We all know that the past several years have been difficult ones for all of us. And, perhaps worst of all, we're asking for money in the midst of all the political upheaval and endless commercials where we know that people are spending millions of dollars to make us all want to shout "Just shut up already. I can't take it any more. We're not really listening"

See ... there's another good thing. Unlike the politicians and Public radio, we're only going to be pestering you for a few short weeks ... and then it's all over ... until next year, of course. So all I can say, in earnest, is *We Need Your Support* ... to keep First Congregational Church the shining desert flower she once was and has become once again.

Be sure to read my letter when comes. Don Schmiedel and I have put together a list of things we have done with your support during the past several years. You may be surprised. Some of it has been readily visible, like the painting of the interior, or the landscaping in the front ... other things we never see, but, like oil, they are essential to maintain the engine that keeps us moving forward.

In years past you have been generous in your support of our church as we have sought to grow and improve our mission, ministry, and facilities. It is once again time to ask for your support as we look forward to 2011, and we ask for that generosity of spirit to be shown once again.

Yours very truly, AL Horkay,  
Chairman, Stewardship Committee

# Thrift Shop



On Friday and Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, the Thrift Shop had a big blowout sale. All summer things are stored away and we are now featuring winter clothes and some wonderful coats and jackets for rock bottom prices.

Since Christmas is so close, we have turned half our shop into our annual Christmas Shop. Lots of NEW and slightly used items that will make wonderful inexpensive gifts.

You have to see to believe!!!

## A BIG THANK YOU EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING HELPERS:

- Don Schmiedel
- Ruth and Ken Hammond
- J and TC Hartman
- Jane and Don Grandjean
- Gina and Dan Eaton
- Ann Beggs
- Ann Pomeroy
- Russ Smethers
- Agripina Perez
- Ardell Zobrist

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO NELSON GRANDJEAN. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTINUALLY DONATE SUCH WONDERFUL MERCHANDISE THAT KEEPS OUR SHOP GOING. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!!

Anita R. Stark  
Thriftshop Manager

## Veteran's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

We honor our veterans,  
worthy men and women  
who gave their best  
when they were called upon  
to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them, Lord,  
for their unselfish service  
in the continual struggle  
to preserve our freedoms, our safety,  
and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly  
for the hardships they faced,  
for the sacrifices they made  
for their many different contributions  
to America's victories  
over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them,  
we honor them, we are proud of them,  
and we pray that you will watch over  
these special people  
and bless them with peace and happiness.  
In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

By Joanna Fuchs



**Veterans Day**

Edie Ebeler, Libertyville, IL

# In The Mailbag



Hi!

*Everything is so beautiful here - endless huge trees, beautiful homes, lawns and the nicest folks... It is so good to be with my family. Will write more later. Say hello to Pastor and all the people I love.*

*Hugs  
Edie Ebeler*

## November Weekly Schedule

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
9:00AM FCC Adult Ed 10:30AM FCC Services 10:50AM FCC Youth Ed 11:30AM FCC Coffee Hour 12:30PM Samoan 3:00PM Iglesia 7:00PM Romanian	9:00-12:00PM FCC Office  6:00PM Samoan (sanc) 6:30PM Children & Youth Worship	9:00-11:00AM Thrift Shop 10:00AM Bread  6:30PM Samoan (Hall) 6:30PM Iglesia	9:00-12:00PM FCC Office  7:00PM Iglesia	9:00-11:00AM Thrift Shop 10:00AM Bread  7:00PM FCC Choir 8:00PM Romanian (Hall)	9:00-12:00PM FCC Office  7:00PM CCCAS (Hall) 7:00PM Iglesia	10:00AM Samoan (hall)  10:30AM Agape Dancers 2:00-4PM FCC Cleaning

## November Special Events

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Oct 31 Nevada Day Reformation Day	Nov 1 All Saints Day	Nov 2 Election Day	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5 7:00PM Pinochle	Nov 6
Nov 7 Congregators Daylight Savings	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10	Nov 11 Veterans Day	Nov 12	Nov 13
Nov 14 Leadership Sunday	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19 10:00 AM Pantry	Nov 20
Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day	Nov 26	Nov 27
Nov 28 First Sunday of Advent	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4

## Celebrating a



November 1	Marvin Rayno
November 6	Betsy Stone
November 7	Donna Vanous
November 8	Susie Block
November 11	Andy Spiller
November 12	James Beggs
November 14	Kit Matsuura
November 21	Don Schmiedel

## November Liturgists

Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>	Suzanne Rayno
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Matsuura
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ardell Zobrist
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Beggs

## Tuesday 9:00am Breakfasts

Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cannery
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	Skyline – Boulder Hwy
Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	Denny's - Charleston West
Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Arizona Charlie's Boulder Hwy
Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	Arizona Charlie's Decatur



## Thanksgiving

### Finances

Contributions:  
Building Usage:  
**Total Income:**

### September

\$3,745.70  
\$1,787.50  
**\$5,533.20**

### 2010

\$41,023.41  
\$29,622.50  
**\$71,164.47**

Ministry:  
Ops & Admin:  
Utilities  
Building & Grounds  
Salaries:  
**Total Expense:**  
**Net:**

\$645.00  
\$1,043.00  
\$707.66  
\$2,505.01  
\$5,727.30  
**\$10,627.99**  
**-\$5,094.77**

\$2,948.99  
\$6,209.31  
\$9,859.92  
\$9,775.93  
\$52,619.71  
**\$81,413.85**  
**-\$10,249.38**

## Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9am to Noon

### Also --- Contact us by email or phone

Dave Pomeroy	Pastor	davepomeroy@ucclasvegas.org	360-5355
Don Schmiedel	Moderator	moderator@ucclasvegas.org	734-1887
Christina Grant	Office Administrator	church@ucclasvegas.org	642-2220
Nelson Grandjean	Clarion Editor	clarion@ucclasvegas.org	624-4603

Please submit all Clarion articles for Decembers issue by

**November 21<sup>st</sup> to [clarion@ucclasvegas.org](mailto:clarion@ucclasvegas.org) or  
[nd\\_grandjean@yahoo.com](mailto:nd_grandjean@yahoo.com)**



First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
1200 North Eastern Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Rev. Dave Pomeroy, Minister  
Phone: 702 642-2220 FAX: 702 642-3642  
E-mail: [church@ucclasvegas.org](mailto:church@ucclasvegas.org)  
Web: [www.ucclasvegas.org](http://www.ucclasvegas.org)

**November Issue 2010**  
**Return Service Requested**

**We are especially Thankful for:**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LAS VEGAS, NV  
PERMIT #63**

## **Sunday Schedule**

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

## **Other Happenings**

Men's & Women's Breakfast 9:00 AM every Tuesday	
Agape Dance Practice	Saturdays 10:30 AM
Pinochle	November 5 <sup>th</sup>
Congregators	November 7 <sup>th</sup>
Leadership Sunday	November 14 <sup>th</sup>
Food Pantry	November 19 <sup>th</sup>



## **Special Dates**

All Saints Day	November 1 <sup>st</sup>
Election Day	November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Uplift a Friend Weekend	November 5 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup>
Daylight Savings Time	November 7 <sup>th</sup>
Veterans Day	November 11 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving Day	November 25 <sup>th</sup>
First Sunday of Advent	November 28 <sup>th</sup>