



Circuit Rider for June 2018

Sparks United Methodist Church
1231 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
775-358-0925 Office@SparksUMC.org



Pastor's Ponderings

Thank you for being a faithful group of Christ-followers over the past six years. It has been a joy serving as your pastor. I head 'over the hill' to serve Holy Cross UMC in Stockton, CA with contentment in my heart knowing you will be well served by the Rev. Lee Neish and his wife JoAnne.

In my final *Circuit Rider* article, I want to remind us some of the most notable steps of faith – demonstrated through faithful service – we have taken together over the past six years.

- ☞ Facility improvements: Great facilities invite participation; rundown rooms repel people. We have new floors down the Happy Days hallway, carpet in the sanctuary, and, of course, a whole new parking lot. In less visible ways, we have upgraded heating and cooling systems, as well as sound and lighting resources. We are poised to become an ever more inviting place to be.
- ☞ Small group development: The open secret of Methodist vitality is involvement in small groups where people get heart-to-heart by meeting face-to-face. Through two summer initiatives and other means we have increased the number of small groups in the congregation, enabling increased care and discipleship development. We now have groups meeting every day of the week.
- ☞ Financial fine-tuning: Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Through dedicated effort coupled with unexpected blessing we are in a far better place financially than we have been in recent years. Adjustments to staffing and employment of resources have us now in the black even as we move to purchase a parsonage.
- ☞ Social outreach: Jesus also said, "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) There has been nothing but growth in this area of our congregational life. We have continued



the usual interactions with local elementary schools and, beyond those, we have added annual Church Has Left the Building events, tutoring interventions, refugee resettlement efforts, and, of course the monthly Wendy's Café and Boxx Lunch endeavors.

- ☞ Musical presence: Sparks UMC knows how to make a joyful noise to the Lord—for everyone else to hear as well! The musical offerings have expanded significantly with the advent of Music Camp, dramatic presentations and a proliferation of concerts—both in the sanctuary and out in the park. We're even on the Artown schedule again this year!

One of the joys of receiving a new pastor and spouse is discovering the gifts and interests they bring to share. Better yet are all the capacities and passions you have to share in service with them.

Keep on keeping on!

Yours for Christ,

Pastor Gary

We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 1:2-3

Worshiping Together

June Worship Themes

We'll have a single service at 10:00 AM throughout the summer with the Coffee Hour at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall.

Sunday School classes will resume in September.



Sunday, June 3

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: *Known and Called*

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-20;
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Sunday, June 10

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: *What Kind of King... and Kingdom?*

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 17

Worship Outside in Celebration of Life Park

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Father's Day

Sermon: *When Treason Is Laudable*

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

Sunday, June 24

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: *Change Is Inevitable –
Growth Is an Option*

Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:9-15a;
Ephesians 3:14-19



Wendy's Café

If you can help, we would appreciate your financial donations to the ministry as well as help with meal delivery and serving. Please hold this ministry in your prayers and help us keep this vital ministry going!

We'd love for you and your family to attend our café meals. Our hope is this meal is a chance for everyone and anyone to enjoy good home cooked food, friendship, fellowship and a time of prayer, music and a message to follow. The next Wendy's Café meal will be at 4:00 PM on...

Saturday, June 23

Saturday, July 28

June's MP3:

Monthly Parish Prayer Priority

Let us pray for a spirit of excitement and welcome as we transition from the leadership of Pastor Gary to Pastor Lee.

UMW: Legacy Note The Power of Bold

In Luke, chapter 8, we read of women who journeyed with and provided for Jesus and his disciples "out of their resources". They are largely unnamed, but present. This is the legacy of UMW; it is the legacy of women over the centuries. Women accompany, support, nurture, provide for, pray and serve, they also teach, lead and act. Women live out their faith in innumerable ways, often without notice.



The Bible barely mentions women but they were present throughout and **we** are present today. This is the legacy of women of faith, UMW and you and me. We live in the sacred space of inheritance and legacy, carrying our faith, noticed or not, through history to the present and into the future.

Legacy Note: Dr. Georgia Harkness was not only an accomplished poet and writer, but also a well-known pacifist, ecumenical theologian and the first woman to become a full professor at an American seminary.

On May 17-20, I attended Assembly 2018 in Columbus, OH, birthplace of what we now know as United Methodist Women. A great celebration of 150 years by women from around the world.

Thank you to the women of Sparks UMW, because of your love, encouragement and support, I was able to experience the "Power of Bold."

Our Annual Luncheon will be held on June 2 at 11:00 AM at Denny's Restaurant, 205 Nugget Ave, Sparks (corner of McCarran and Nugget Ave.).

Moving Forward,

Patricia Wilson, President

Learn More About Our New Pastor!

Saved by Grace

Much like Pastor Gary, Jo and I are beginning to say our goodbyes and preparing to say our hellos to all of you in just a few weeks. We're excited about the coming year and all that God has waiting for us. Below is the second half of last month's article so that you can learn more about me and my back ground. See you soon!

Mind Influences



- I learned how to be an analytical problem solver using critical tools gained in the course of earning my Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech
- I learned how to apply theological reflection to public policy formation through my certification in the National Capital Semester for Seminarians at Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC, as well as an internship at the Churches Center for Theology and Public Policy on that campus
- I worked on my residency requirements for a Ph.D. in ethics and economics as a special student at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA
- I was a student at the California Nevada Conference's *Quest for Quality* presented by our General Board of Discipleship
- I completed the three year course of studies at the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership meeting on nine teaching church campuses across the United States
- I attended the United Methodist Large Church Initiative seminars annually on teaching church campuses across the United States
- By far, my most influential mind influence has been my participation at the Leadership Institute of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection from 2011 through 2016

Strength Expressions (loving your neighbor as yourself)

- I was tapped and inducted into ANAK, Georgia Tech's honorary leadership society,



- for my contribution to student government and other aspects of student life at Georgia Tech
- I helped lead the team that created the still successfully operating Christian Preschool at Good Samaritan UMC in Cupertino, CA
- I helped lead the development team through two capital campaigns to build a new sanctuary and, later, to replace the old classroom building with the new two-story building housing children's ministries today
- I led the team that created the still successfully operating Christian Preschool at Los Gatos UMC which was voted #1 People's Choice in Los Gatos during my last year there
- I successfully completed one capital campaign and completed two additional campaigns to, over the course of ten years, completely renovate the Los Gatos UMC campus
- I successfully completed reconstruction of our Earthquake-destroyed main sanctuary at Napa Methodist Church in 2014 and led a capital campaign in 2016 which continues to provide income for renovations being made across the remainder of the campus
- While at Napa Methodist Church, I helped launch a new worship service as well as revamp and relaunch many of our existing ministries (I'll share more about these projects later!)
- While in the city of Napa, I've been a member of the Napa Rotary Club, Napa Interfaith Council, Napa Christian Clergy Association, and Community Action Napa Valley Board of Directors



Musical Musings



Greetings from Music Ministries!

Special Music & Events – Thanks to everyone who was able to attend our latest concerts here in our

Sanctuary: Reno Youth Jazz

Orchestra, Sierra NV Children's Choirs, TMCC Jazz Ensemble, Mikah Meyer, and Tintabulations Handbell Ensemble. I'm so glad we have this beautiful space to offer as a venue for performing artists and groups! It's also great to be blessed with such a variety of music right here in our own church. Thanks also to those folks who help me with hosting, receptions, and cleanup for those events as well.

Glorious Noise Children's Choir – Tommy and Benji Schoech presented another great anthem to honor all the mothers on Mother's Day – both in English and Spanish! I'm so blessed to spend time with and teach these very dedicated boys – what a joy!

Sanctuary Choir – continues to lead worship each week at our first service. We welcomed back Nancy Reitsma, who has been away because of illness.

Beatitudes Praise Band – is off this month, but will be back on Father's Day, June 17, as we worship outdoors at our Celebration of Life Park.

Senior Chorus – Bobbi Boger leads this group of dedicated seniors who present music programs every Thursday at a different retirement home in the area. Locations and times are always listed in our worship bulletins. If you're interested in finding out more about this group, please either call Bobbi Boger or me.

Drop-in Choir – start warming up your vocal cords and join me on Sundays starting June 10 as we rehearse in my office at 9:30 AM and present an easy choir anthem in worship the same day! Just try it – you may like it!

God bless you!

Cindy Sabatini, Director of Music Ministries ☺



Celebrating Our Family



Mark Sargent	06/05	Karen Martino	06/19
Tommy Schoech	06/05	Alice Kaskie	06/21
George Parigini	06/06	Kimi Wilson	06/23
Jake Jr Young	06/12	Fisher Haslip	06/24
Erynne Cushing	06/13	Joey Dailey	06/25
Lawrence Reitsma	06/14	Delia Bohdan	06/26
Joey Hensley	06/15	Jace Todd	06/26
Suzie Norris	06/16	Tyler Mason	06/27
Mason Cobb	06/18	Alicia Cobb	06/29
Pat Stump	06/18	Marie Hum	06/30
Darleen Galleron	06/19	Barbara Knapp	06/30

Congratulations!

Paul & Peggy Thomas	59
Richard & Barbara Knapp	59
Sam & Jean Somerhalder	53
Tom & Jan Carnahan	52
Jerry & Bobbi Boger	51
William & Cindy Wolf	39
John & Cindi Mitchell	38
Bob & Nel Pisors	34
Wayde & Alice Hanson	33
Gary & Vicky Claizer	33
Will & Tencha Nevius	22
James & Bre Baker	9
Larry & Patricia Wilson	Joy!
Kevin & Susan Browning	Joy!



Prayer Quilt Ministry

During the Spring of 2005, Susan Phillips, a member of the Sparks United Methodist Church, had a vision that turned her passion, making quilts, into a ministry. She made contact with the President of an organization called Prayers and Squares, the Prayer Quilt Ministry. On March 10 of that year that contact honored Susan and our church as Chapter 303 of Prayers and Squares.

The motto of this organization is easy to remember, "It's not about the quilt, it's all about the prayers." Over the years, approximately 22 people have volunteered to make quilts for those who were in need of prayer. After each quilt has been sewn together as many as 60 ties have been added to it, so members of the church can offer a prayer while they tie knots.

As of this Spring, 2018, over 1000 prayer quilts have been produced, and over 60,000 prayers have been lifted to God, for people we know as well as people we do not know.

Each Prayer Quilt is delivered with a placard, identifying the person for whom it was made, and that person's name is sewn into the quilt. The

persons who request these prayer quilts, or someone in the church that those persons ask, present the quilt to those needing prayer, by laying it on that person, and explaining the meaning of those prayer knots.

From time to time the quilters sell quilts (not intended to be prayer quilts) along with other hand-made cloth items to raise money to buy fabric and batting. Some fabric has also been donated by people who know of this ministry and want to support it.

We wish to thank you for your support, especially when you offer a prayer and tie a knot on Sunday mornings. We welcome anyone who may like to join this ministry. We meet in the Social Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON. If you have a sewing machine, bring it with you. If not, we may be able to find one for you. Even if you do not do much sewing, we can teach you how it is done, and even provide the fabric and pattern for you to use.

The prayer quilts are gifts. The prayers are our ministry. ~ Carolyn Butler

Comings and Goings

Thank You from Lord of Mercy

Pastor Sarah Johnson, Sonja Dresbach (Office Admin), and the congregation of Lord of Mercy would like to thank each of you at Sparks United Methodist for opening up your home to us with your generous gift of space and hospitality.

You welcomed us into your church and office areas allowing us to continue serving in God's mission in the world. You joined with us for services and invited us to join you for services and events. You were so welcoming and your home became our home. We cannot say thank you enough. You blessed us to be a blessing to others and for this we are thankful.

Even though we are moving to our new mission center, we pray we can still remain close friends in Christ. We wish to welcome you all to our **Open House and Dedication on June 10**. Please come and join our celebration.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in all you do as you bless others.

Pastor Sarah, Sonja, and the congregation of Lord of Mercy



LORD OF MERCY
Dedication and Open House
Sunday, June 10, 2018

9:00 a.m. - Regular Worship Service
Noon - 2:00 p.m. - Potluck Lunch & Open House
2:00 p.m. - Dedication Service
Synod Bishop The Reverend Mark W. Holmerud Presiding

LORD OF MERCY
591 Los Altos Parkway
Sparks, Nevada 89436
775-358-7863
www.lordofmercy.org

Youth Ministry Update

Teens wanted: join our YOUTH GROUP Wednesday dinner @ 6:00 PM followed by youth style fellowship and planning for upcoming opportunities! Adult participants also needed. Contact me, Adele Grube @ 750-9119.



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

775-358-0925 Office@SparksUMC.org

Visit our website at www.SparksUMC.org

Pastor Gary Pope-Sears
Dir. of Music Ministries Cindy Sabatini
Church Administrator Charles White
Webmaster Cheri Vocelka

Happy Days Preschool 775-331-6699

Director: Yvana Majalca

Summer Sunday Worship Services

10:00 AM

Nursery care is provided.

The Ted Butler Annual Men's Yard Sale

The annual yard sale will be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, June 9. Should you have items to donate, bring them to the social hall the week before the sale, or call Dale Sanderson (313-2174) or Hank Vanderbeek (722-3492) to schedule a pick up time. No clothes, tires, televisions, computers, or paint, please.

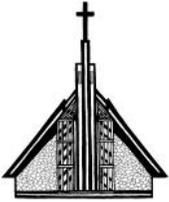
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Contact Office@SparksUMC.org
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Annual Men's Yard Sale
Saturday, June 9
Starts at 8:00 AM

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Mark Your Calendars

- June 24 – 6:00 PM
 Maytan Community Band Concert in our Celebration of Life Park (with an ice cream social)!
- July 11 – 7:00 PM
 Let's Dance Band Concert in the Sanctuary (as part of Artown)
- July 25 – 7:00 PM
 Let's Dance Band Octet Concert in the Sanctuary (as part of Artown)
- August 26 – 6:00 PM
 Sage Creek Bluegrass Band Concert in our Celebration of Life Park

Church Council Meets June 14

Our Church Council will meet at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings and participate in discussions. Only members of the Church Council can vote.



Coffee Hour Hosts

Each Sunday after worship one group from our congregation hosts this time of fellowship. If you or your group would like to be added to the rotation, please contact the church office.



- June 3 Helping Hands
- June 10 UM Women & UM Men
- June 17 Gold & Silver Fellowship
- June 24 Board of Trustees

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.