



Circuit Rider for May 2018

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



Pastor's Ponderings

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... (If you are anywhere near my age, you probably just started singing *Turn, Turn, Turn* from the '60s!) The author goes on to say that there is a time to be born, and a time to die... a time to mourn, and a time to dance... along with many other contrasting statements. Should a United Methodist Bishop paraphrase this passage, she or he might add the verse: a time to remain and a time to be reappointed.

Last month in this space, I spoke about the appointment process and how I will be leaving at the end of June to become the pastor at Holy Cross United Methodist Church in Stockton, CA. It was announced in worship on Sunday, April 8 that the incoming pastor here will be the Reverend Lee Neish, currently serving as pastor at Napa UMC. [For details on your new pastor, see Lee's article on page 3.]

I could not be happier! I have known Lee since I began my seminary studies in 1977. Lee was one year ahead of me at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. I was surprised and delighted when Lee graduated and headed west to become Associate Pastor at Good Samaritan UMC (Good Sam) in Cupertino, CA – the sponsoring church for the high school/college age camp that had been very formative of my Christian faith.

Lee and I worked at that same camp – Camp Celebration – for many years. It thrilled me when Lee married JoAnne, someone who also spent formative years at Good Sam and Camp Celebration; I had known Jo since I first attended camp in 1971. We have all stayed in touch across our respective careers, most frequently through shared involvement in Walk to Emmaus weekends.

Lee brings many gifts and skills which I lack, and which Sparks UMC needs! I believe he will be the right pastor coming at the right time to encourage growth in the right forms of

discipleship and service to this congregation, community and world. JoAnne's musical gifts will complement the great music program Cindy has created, allowing the church to explore new horizons of worship and community involvement.



The fingerprints of God are evident everywhere in this series of appointments. I sense a great opportunity ahead of Sybella and me at Holy Cross. I am at peace knowing that your new pastor is equipped and energized to lead you forward.

Until I learned last year of our new bishop's preference for more frequent moving of the pastors under her direction, I was quite content to serve out my remaining years here among you. When I'm most honest, I must admit that I was growing more inclined to do some 'coasting' as the reality of retirement grew. A new locale, a new congregation, a new challenge: all of these – while somewhat stressful – are proving quite energizing as Sybella and I prepare to take our leave from the Truckee Meadows. The rightness of that new reality was amplified when I learned who will assume pastoral leadership here at Sparks UMC.

I am humbled by all who have expressed their regret at our departure: please know how much we value your support and friendship. My request of all reading this is quite simple: get to know your incoming pastor and spouse. Reaffirm your commitment to Christ and reinvest in the shared ministry of this body of Christ. Then see what God will do!

Yours for the journey,

Pastor Gary

Worshiping Together

May Worship Themes

Our first service begins at 9:00 AM and the second at 10:30 AM. Our Coffee Hours are at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM in the Social Hall.

Sunday School classes for children and adults run concurrent with the 10:30 AM service.



Sunday, May 6 6th Sunday of Easter
Sermon: *Plotting a Course for Pentecost - Spreading like Wildfire*
Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 13 Ascension Sunday
Sermon: *Plotting a Course for Pentecost - Wait and Watch*
Scriptures: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 20 Pentecost Sunday
Sermon: *Turning the World Upside Down*
Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 27 Trinity Sunday
Peace with Justice Sunday
Sermon: 3:16 +
~ Donna McKibben, preaching
Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17

UMW: Legacy Note The Power of Bold

Did you know that Mother's Day in the United States was initiated and championed by Ann Reeves Jarvis, a



Methodist woman from West Virginia? Before Mother's Day was an official holiday in the United States, Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day" in 1868, where she promoted peaceful reconciliation by bringing together mothers of former Union and Confederate soldiers.

After Jarvis' death in 1905, her daughter Anna Jarvis took up the mantle and pushed for the creation of a national Mother's Day to honor the sacrifices of mothers. The first official Mother's Day celebration was observed on May 10, 1908, at Methodist churches in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day as a national observance in 1914.

This is the legacy of women of faith, United Methodist Women, you and me. We carry our faith through history to the present and into the future.

Happy Mother's Day to all!

Patricia Wilson, President

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.



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, May 26

Saturday, June 23

Newly Appointed Sparks Pastor Is Self-Proclaimed Sinner!

Saved by Grace

For those who might find it a bit awkward to introduce your new pastor to friends and family using the above phrase, let me share some introductory comments of lesser importance but of some relevance nevertheless. Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 6:5 that “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all our soul, and with all your might.” Jesus tells us in Mark 12:30-31 that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all our soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” So, what have been the major influences that have shaped the way I love God and neighbor?

Heart Influences

- I was born an only child and grew up in a loving family in a suburb of Harrisburg, PA
- I was baptized as a child and grew through Sunday School and Youth Group at Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Church (now part of the UMC since the merger in 1968)
- I received my Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH
- I was mentored by senior pastor Roy Dunn while serving as associate pastor at Good Samaritan UMC in Cupertino for eleven years
- I served on clergy teams, as spiritual director and community spiritual director for the River Walk to Emmaus community centered in Antioch, CA as well as the Grace Emmaus community centered in the South San Francisco Bay for the past 25 years
- As a member of the Gospel Music Association, I’ve helped introduce young talent from previous churches to the Christian Music Industry at GMA week in Nashville and Seminar in the Rockies at Estes Park, Colorado, over the course of a dozen years
- By far, my most influential heart influences are my wife, JoAnne, of thirty years, and my two adult children; Jo, as she is called, will be writing you with her own bio as well as sharing our family news



Soul Influences

- God helped me overcome my severe shyness as a child through the extraordinary love and grace of a congregation
- God saved me from lesser passions by placing a love for God and ministry in my heart from an early age
- God saved me from a potentially disastrous marriage through the breaking of an engagement so I could discover the woman who God had ready waiting for me
- God saved me from abandoning my first two appointments because of discouragement by the words of wisdom shared by supervisors at just the right time
- God saved me from being a lone ranger in ministry by providing me with three colleagues who have become life-long friends as, multiple times during the year, we gather in retreat to share the mountaintops and valleys of life and ministry in the California Nevada Conference
- God has graced me with at least one small group in each of my churches with whom I’ve met regularly and who’ve asked me that most profound of Wesleyan questions: How is it with your soul?
- By far, my most influential soul influence is the sure knowledge that even I am saved by God’s grace

Next month I’ll share more about myself. Looking forward to meeting all of you! ~ Rev. Lee Neish

Musical Musings



Greetings from Music Ministries!

Special Music & Events – Thanks to all who participated (and attended) our special Holy Week events: Palm Sunday

Passion Story, Maundy Thursday potluck/communion/hand-washing service, both services on Good Friday, the choir cantata, and the three services on Easter morning. Christ is risen... Christ is risen indeed!

Glorious Noise Children's Choir – the mighty choir of Tommy and Benji Schoech led the Palms Processional on Palm Sunday, presented two songs on Easter, and even sang a song in worship last week with the help of Beatitudes musicians!

Sanctuary Choir – presented their Good Friday cantata "Light in the Darkness" the evening of Good Friday and continue to be an integral part of our 9:00 AM worship services.

Beatitudes Praise Band – just led worship on April 22. There will be no Beatitudes worship services in May.

Joy-Filled Handbell Choir – is back and presented a beautiful anthem at two of the Easter morning worship services!

Free Concerts April 29 and May 20

Invite your friends and neighbors to these free concerts. Donations will be gladly accepted – either at the concert or before (if you cannot make it).



God bless you!

Cindy Sabatini, Director of Music Ministries ☺

Mark Your Calendars

- April 29 – 2:00 PM
Sierra Nevada Children's Choir Concert
- May 20 – 2:00 PM
Tintabulations Handbell Ensemble Concert
- 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

Tintabulations Handbell Ensemble May 20



This internationally-acclaimed group will, once again, liven up our Sanctuary as they bring sights and sounds of English handbells and chimes alive through their music.

They're under the direction of Barbara Walsh, who's been an educator with the Washoe County School District, and now leads and tours with this group extensively, even to international symposiums in Canada!

Learn more at Tintabulations.com.

Celebrating Our Family



Vivian Bussiere	5/03	Thomas Miner	5/15
Gordon Koski	5/04	Kacie Nicholas	5/15
Isabel Lopez	5/05	Michael Harris	5/16
Elizabeth Tague	5/06	Brad Stone	5/16
Joe Jr Beard	5/08	Pat Vanlue	5/17
Laura Harper	5/08	Yann Ling-Barnes	5/19
Pat Rayppy	5/09	Linda Johnson	5/21
Dale Sanderson	5/09	Adam Bennett Jr.	5/24
Beatriz Sato	5/09	Cindee Tequillo	5/25
John Hicks	5/10	Jo Vanderbeek	5/25
Linda Sanderson	5/10	Ruth Kesselring-Jones	5/26
Megan Costello	5/11	Ron Semenko	5/29
Dave Galleron	5/13	Joshua DuBois	5/30
Talan Campbell	5/14	Diana Greer	5/31
Elaine Schmidt	5/14		

Congratulations!

Rex & Candace Loesby	36
Eugene & Edith Cushing	35
Dan & Jeanne Hilton	29
Gary & Margi Coles	26
Greg & Constance Jones	3
Brad & Judi Stone	joy!

Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for your cards and kind wishes since my traffic accident on March 27. I'm doing much better. Thanks again!

~ Delia Bohdan

Easter Bunny and Sunday School Children Visit Rosewood Convalescent

Three of our Sunday School members visited Rosewood Convalescent Center on Saturday, March 31, to deliver Easter candy to the residents.

They were escorted throughout the facility by the Easter Bunny (a staff member dressed to bring the Easter spirit to the patients). Tommy and Benji Schoech and Jasmine Baglietto delivered bags prepared during Sunday School time the previous week; as always, the generous donations of candy by the United Methodist Women allowed us to distribute 80 bags to the residents.

We usually have several bags left over which are then used for bingo prizes, but this month, their census increased at the last minute and we were barely able to deliver a bag to each patient. Sherry Beard and Freida Schoech accompanied the students.



Please join us for our next delivery in time for the 4th of July. We would be happy to have your participation, and you will be as blessed as the patients are when you take part in this community outreach. Contact Sherry at 359-1968 or beard-fe@nvtbell.net if you wish to come along.

Comings and Goings



Celebrating New Members

Please be sure to meet and welcome our newest members. Our faith community is growing and we look forward to their continued presence. Introduce yourself!

Kevin & Susan Browning

The Brownings come to us from Our Savior Lutheran Church here in Sparks. Both enjoy being retired: Kevin from the Sparks police force, and Susan from banking.

Doris Metcalf

Doris comes to us from the Ely UMC where she worked as an assistant field manager for BLM. Now retired, she has moved to Sparks where she enjoys quilting and reading.

Terrie Schulte

Terrie is renewing her membership here, and it's great to have her back among us. She owned a print shop and worked as a bookkeeper before retiring allowing her to engage in computer work and follow her passion of quilting.

Gold & Silver Luncheon

Join us on May 17 for a special program on the ancient history of the people of the Great Basin area of Nevada, by Molly Gardner. She will bring some of her baskets to show and will have a slide presentation on basketry through the ages. Potluck lunch begins at 12 NOON in the Social Hall.



Thank You!

To those who gave the Easter flowers in loving memory of my son, Justin, **thank you so very much.** That beautiful act means more than I can say. That day was the one-year anniversary of when I learned of his death.

God bless you for this.
Love, Carol Rogers



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

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Nursery care is provided at all services.

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, or paint, please.

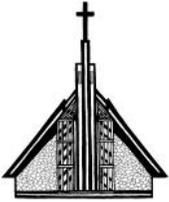
Circuit Rider articles are due by the 20th each month.

Contact Office@SparksUMC.org
Printer Church Office
Reporters All of You!

Circulation: Grace Anderson, Jean Cleveland, Diana Greer, Donna McKibben, Carol Rogers, Jewel Sertic, Sally Snow, Wanda Vogel



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The Spirit is Coming!
Celebrate Pentecost with us
on May 20.
(Be sure to wear red!)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Pie with the Pastor

Want to know more about Sparks UMC – what we’re about, how things work, ways to be involved, maybe even become a member? Here’s your chance to explore all those things and a slice of pie to go with it. Join Pastor Gary on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall for Pie with the Pastor.

All are welcome! If you’re planning on attending, please let Pastor Gary know: pastorgary@sparksumc.org or 358-0925. If childcare would be helpful, let him know that as well.



**May’s MP3:
 Monthly Parish Prayer Priority**

Let us pray that the Spirit which came down at Pentecost will come afresh upon us, broadening our vision, emboldening our witness.

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.



- May 6 Nominations Committee
- May 13 Men & Women’s Emmaus
- May 20 Worship Committee
- May 27 Finance Committee

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