



Circuit Rider for January 2018

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



Time



Talent



Treasure

Pastor's Ponderings

On Sunday, December 31 at 5:00 PM some of us will gather for our annual Covenant Renewal Service as we prepare to enter 2018 in the service of God. While many reading this will not choose to attend this special worship service, I think it might be helpful for all to be prompted as will be those who are present that evening. As we renew our commitment to Christ in the waning hours of 2017, I invite us all to consider our investment of the following three things during 2018:

TIME: *What people and priorities will be a focus for my time and attention?* Time is the great leveler – no matter how educated or ignorant, wealthy or poor we may be, we get the same 31,536,000 seconds in 2018 as the next person. What defines each year is how we spend those fleeting seconds: how much we sleep, how much we study, how much we pray, how much we mentor, and so forth. As the year begins, it is a great time to weigh how we plan to order our days for maximum joy, effectiveness, and growth.

TALENTS: *Skills and abilities I will work to improve and share...* This naturally follows the previous topic, helping us select what things we will hone and perfect, and which ones we will move away from. We can't do everything, but there are things which we can do better, and can target to bless and benefit others too. While learning the cello is a passing fancy to me, improving my vocal capacity will pay dividends when I lead worship. Begin your consideration with: a) what brings you joy, and b) what can be helpful to others.

TREASURES: *New or different ways I will make use of my resources...* Sybella and I were intentional about giving some of our Christmas savings away to helpful nonprofit groups this December. There are many such groups! Giving leverages our hearts and heads to be attentive to the organizations we support; as Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) A few years ago, I made the observation that all of our money goes to *somebody*, not *something*. The question then



becomes: who is doing the work you want to see done? Support them! As you may well be aware, there is a wide array of ways to give: money in an offering plate, clothes and stuff given for a Rummage Sale or Yard Sale, volunteering for a shift in the Pumpkin Patch, including the church in your will, etc.

Please join me in making these intentional commitments as we move into 2018. Let us invite God to guide our direction, goad our dedication, and bless our growth in faithfulness.

Happy and Holy New Year,

Pastor Gary

Worshiping Together

January Worship Themes

We continue our two worship service schedule, with the first service at 9:00 AM and the second at 10:30 AM. Our Coffee Hour is at 10:00 AM in the Social Hall. Sunday School classes for children and adults run concurrent with the 10:30 AM service.



Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas

Sermon: *Independent Validation*

Scripture readings: Psalm 148; Luke 2:22-40

5:00 PM *Service of Covenant Renewal*

Scripture readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34;
1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 15:1-8

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany of the Lord/Baptism of the Lord

Sermon: *Made Known Again and Again*

Scripture readings: Isaiah 60:1-6;
Matthew 2:1-12; Mark 1:4-11

Worship will feature Holy Communion and the Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Sunday, January 14

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day

Sermon: *Called of God: The Power of a Holy Call*

Scripture readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: *Called of God: A Tale of Two Calls*

Scripture readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28

Cindy Evans, preaching; sermon title and scripture readings pending

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women are hosting their Annual Pledge Service on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 1:00 PM in the Social Hall.

Please contact Charlie Harwell at 358-4713 if you have any questions.



January's MP3: Monthly Parish Prayer Priority

Let us pray for clarity in the directions we are to take in serving our congregation and community in this new year.



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.

Upcoming meals are at 4:00 PM on...

Saturday, January 27

Saturday, February 24

Growing Our Faith Together

Mark Your Calendars

- February 18 – 2:00 PM
Fundraising concert for Sparks HS Music Department
- March 4 – 2:00 PM
Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra Concert
- April 29 – 2:00 PM
Sierra Nevada Children's Choir Concert

Sparks High School Music Department Fundraiser

Save the date of Sunday, Feb. 18 to attend a special concert in our sanctuary at 2:00 PM presented by musicians from our church and from Sparks High. Their music department greatly needs community support. Stay tuned for details!



~ Cindy Sabatini ☺



Spread the news – call your friends. Youth Group is going strong! Join us each Wednesday in the Social Hall at 6:00 PM. We will be serving dinner, after which the youth will meet.

We have invited the Lutheran youth to join with us. This is going to be a lot of fun!

For more information, contact Adele Grube at 425-9110.



New Members

Please make a point to introduce yourselves to those who were received into membership this past November. (Our apologies for not getting this into the December *Circuit Rider*!)

Mark Flanagan

Mark comes to us from the Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship and brings with him a love of scripture and theology. He also enjoys singing and caring for his two dogs.

Guy Priou (pre-you)

Guy is a retired project manager for firms in Silicon Valley, and comes to us from Almaden Hills UMC in San José. He enjoys music in the form of singing as well as playing drums and enjoys playing golf.

Gary Waldrop

Gary comes to us from Reno Baptist Church and is living his retirement dream by driving school bus. He has long enjoyed travel and fishing.

Elizabeth Wilson

Elizabeth comes to us from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. She is a retired nurse who enjoys sewing and caring for her companion pug Chewie.

Judy Jones

Judy comes to us from Epworth United Methodist Church in Toledo, Ohio. She moved to the Truckee Meadows recently to be near family. She and her husband Millard are residents at Cascades of the Sierra.

Journey Through the Bible

This ongoing adult Bible study meets on Sundays, at 10:30 AM in Room 106. A few books are still available if you don't already have one.

Contact Patricia Wilson at 853-2753 for more

information. Please join us!



Musical Musings



Greetings from Music Ministries!

Special Music & Events – As I reflect a bit on 2017, I'd like to thank everyone who's been a part of one or more of our music

ministries programs or has supported our ministries by attending a concert, theatrical production, choir festival, or weekly worship service. Music in the life of Sparks UMC is so important...both here in the church building and as community outreach.

Looking ahead to 2018, stay tuned for details on upcoming fundraisers, Sanctuary concerts, park concerts, and Lenten choir cantata.

Flames Youth Choir – presented special music Christmas Eve morning, and has enjoyed being a part of the Beatitudes Praise Band as well.

Glorious Noise Children's Choir – sang us an Advent song December 3 and was an integral

part of our 5:00 PM Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Sanctuary Choir – continues to lead worship at our 9:00 AM worship service. They also participated in the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

Beatitudes Praise Band – celebrated Christmas Eve at our 10:00 PM worship service joined by guest musicians Curt Langdon, Phil Jerome, and Ben Caiazza on sax, trombone and trumpet respectively. I especially enjoyed having my two girls, Lisa and Melody join us once again on all the seasonal music we presented that evening!

Joy-Filled Handbells – accompanied our new Advent candle lighting song in worship for the 4 Sundays of Advent.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and the beautiful prayer quilts for both John and me... they're so very much appreciated!

God bless you!

Cindy Sabatini, Director of Music Ministries



Celebrating Our Family



Congratulations!

Lawrence & Nancy Reitsma 52 years

Happy

ANNIVERSARY


and
MANY
more
TO
come

Zachary Gehlert	01/02	James Gill	01/17
Nancy Reitsma	01/03	Melissa Teston	01/18
Sharron Williams	01/03	Bev Thurston	01/18
Chris Cobb	01/05	Patty Rahn	01/19
Donna McKibben	01/06	Jennifer Hunter	01/20
Katrina Lund	01/07	Amanda Norris	01/21
Don Phillips	01/08	Danielle DuBois	01/24
Sarah Hanson	01/09	Charlotte Elbe	01/24
Neal Williams	01/10	Linda Young	01/25
Ray Pelfrey	01/11	Michael Cammarata	01/26
Hailey Pinder	01/12	Brianna Knight	01/26
Adam Bennett	01/15	Sarina Miner	01/26
Hannah Lungren	01/15	Will Nevius	01/27
Paige Sargent	01/15	Samantha Kendrick	01/28
Evelyn Gehlert	01/16	Timothy Schoech	01/29

*Happy
Holidays
from the
Happy
Days
Staff and
Santa!*



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office CLOSED <i>Please visit the calendar on our website www.SparksUMC.org for updated events.</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy	8 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	9 6:00 PM Worship Comm. 6:00 PM Stephen Leaders 6:30 PM Stephen Ministers 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	10 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 5:00 PM HD Board Meeting 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:00 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Silver \$ Chorus	11 12:30 PM Crafters Corner 4:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30 AM TM Quilters 9:30 AM Bible Study	13 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class Pledge Svc for 2018
14 UMC Human Relations Day 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy	15 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	16 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	17 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Big Band Reh. 7:00 PM Bd. of Trustees 7:00 PM Silver \$ Chorus	18 12:01 PM Gold & Silver 4:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30 AM Bible Study	20 "CR" Due Date 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class
21 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy	22 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	23 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	24 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 6:00 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Silver \$ Chorus	25 4:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Nominations Com 6:30 PM SPRC	26 9:30 AM Bible Study	27 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class 10:00 AM Boxx Lunches 4:00 PM Wendy's Café 4:45 PM Worship Service
28 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy	29 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	30 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	31 6:00 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Silver \$ Chorus	4:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal		 Find us on: facebook®

Harvest Festival Final Report

The Pumpkin Patch Harvest Festival Craft Fair Advisory committee met on November 29, 2017 for a final wrap-up of the 2017 craft fair and to evaluate recommendations for the continuation of the Pumpkin Patch and the Crafter's fair. Members present were Michael Ridgeway, Jan Carnahan, Molly Gardner, Barbara Bowman, Nancy Baker and Donna McKibben. The church administrative assistant was unable to attend.

Michael reported on the Pumpkin Patch final results and will present that information as well as recommendations for the future of the patch to the church council in the future. Everyone thanked him for his tireless service and also for acting as the person who obtains the required permits, materials and equipment needed for the craft fair.

Molly then reported the final results from the vendors and Crafters. A total of 52 vendors/crafters signed up. She detailed the amount of work needed to recruit and support the vendors who sign up for the fall event.

Barbara reported that the final total of income from the craft fair was \$3,121.92. the committee voted to donate \$3,000 to the church General Fund. The remaining \$121.92 is to be retained in the craft fair account to be used as a startup for

2018 if someone in the church decides to take on the project. If, at the end of 2018 no one picks up the project, then the remaining money will revert to the General Fund.

Barbara also reported on the results of the questionnaires. Of the 92 vendors/crafters only one or two had any concerns which were addressed at the time. Most of the crafters want to come back and participate next year.

Jan reported that a "panic" book was being compiled. We briefly went over job descriptions and needed supplies. The book will be finalized in January at which time a copy of the manual will be given the church office for future reference. Any interested people can look at it. Most of the advisory board have submitted their resignation for the craft fair but have agreed to be available for questions if anyone or group of individuals wants to step up and take on this fun money earner for the church. We thank everyone for their help.

Submitted by Jan Carnahan with thanks to Donna McKibben, acting secretary.



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.



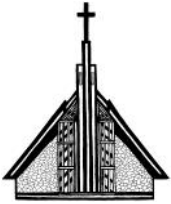
Like us on Facebook and join the conversation.
It's a great way to share our church with your friends!

Articles for each issue of the *Circuit Rider* are due by the 20th of each month.

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This month, Gary begins a new
sermon series titled "Called of God."
Jan. 14 "The Power of a Holy Call"
Jan. 21 "A Tale of Two Calls"

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Human Relations Day: Giving Ordinary People an Extraordinary Voice

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,
'What are you doing for others?'"*

~ The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Sunday, Jan. 14, we will be celebrating Human Relations Day. This Special Sunday because it reminds us to recognize the rights of all God's children to realize their potential.

Here are three reasons we celebrate:

1. We are called to embrace the overlooked & ignored.
2. We are meant to be a voice for the voiceless.
3. We are **all** God's children.

Our Human Relations Day offering supports community outreach, social justice and work with at-risk youth. **We join thousands of other UMC churches** to love and care for the children of God and thus strengthen our communities together.

One hundred percent of every donation goes straight to the marginalized, the disenfranchised and the ones at risk. Here's the breakdown:

- 57% is allocated to the Community Developers Program, which supports racial-ethnic congregations and communities engaged in social justice through advocacy.
- 33% is allocated to the UMC Voluntary Services Program, which helps promote and provide relationships with local community organizations.
- 10% is allocated to the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, which works with at-risk youth to prevent problems and helps convicted youth redirect their lives.

Human Relations Day is our opportunity to make systemic changes that help UMC communities worldwide provide incredible and needed services.

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