

The United Church of Christ
26701 McCall Boulevard
Sun City, California 92586
(951) 679-1149
Email: uccsc@verizon.net
Website: ucchrist.com



The Sonshiner

Monthly Publication
Volume 253 - Issue 1

Non-Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sun City, CA
Permit No. 4

Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

January 2010

Return Service Requested

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2010!

**The Annual Meeting -
Potluck Dinner,**
will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME !
Get involved,
Meet your new church officers for 2010.**

Please bring a favorite dish,
enough to serve 6 - 8 people.

If you have any questions, please contact
Donna Goodrich at 679-1312.

**(Annual Reports are due
in the Church Office by January 5, 2010.)
If you have any questions,
please call Cheryl at 679-1149. (Tues - Fri)**

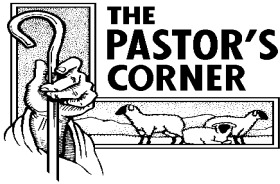
Keep Alert!

If one purges oneself from laziness
and indifference, that one will be a
vessel unto honor, sanctified and ready
for the Lord's use and prepared
unto every good work.
(2 Timothy 2: 21)

REFLECTION

From out of the Universe
And into our hearts,
Come quiet words of hope...
And encouragement.
These silent inner promptings
Bring us love and light,
Feeding our spirits longings
With the teachings of The Christ...
And our souls are saved
From emptiness, sending us soaring
Into a greater joyful inspiration.

DE



2010: Your New Year of Joy and Inspiration

“God has sent me to heal the broken-hearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives,
recovery of sight to the blind, and to liberate
those who are bruised (wounded)... I am come
to seek out and save that which was lost.



We played a flute, but you would not dance!
We sang a funeral song, but you would not weep or grieve....

And now I come to you, and these things I speak in the world,
that you might have my joy fulfilled in yourselves.
(Luke 4: 18; 19: 10; 7: 32; John 17: 13)

Each year carries its own themes and vibrations of energy and spiritual opportunity.
2009 was a year of many significant changes and challenges in personal relationships.

As I write this article, I am remembering many close partnerships that changed radically last year.
Some of these changes involved losses and separations, which have left a void in me and in others.
Three of my very close personal friends passed over, reminding me to love more each moment.

When we have once taken anybody into our heart, we are linked forever in Spirit.
When close friends leave us this earthly lifetime for the larger “mansions” (dimensions) of life,
part of ourselves goes with them. But even if we can no longer embrace another physically,
truly, as the Christ reminds us, “we are all **ONE** in God,” interconnected forever, no matter where
we may currently reside, and we **WILL** all meet again, recognizing each other in new cycles of meeting,
loving, parting and re-uniting, on an everlasting journey in the Creator.

In **2010** let us find new **joy** in the beauty and inspiration of new seasons that are arriving for us.
This year will offer new cycles of deepening and possible healing and reconciliation in existing friendships:
a new dance of rainbow colors and symphonies of song. Like a great kaleidoscope, life offers us so many varieties
of beauty and radiance. Nature soon will awaken into spring to bless us with new shapes and fragrances.
Animals, who are now in great need, bless us with ten times the love of the average human.
Every life is here to sing its special song to the glory of God. May we be alive to each other’s melodies.

Let us rejoice and be glad for all that God offers to us. Let us truly “enter into the joy of our Lord.” (**Matthew 25: 23**)
Let us find new ways to embody God’s Love
in our love for one another and reverence for all creation.

Because the Christ beholds each of us as a beautiful, emerging creation of God, he always sees us
in the clear glory of our larger being and becoming, not as something lost or gone.
Nothing is ever lost in Spirit. We are energy and consciousness, always alive and mysterious, ever new.
Wherever we are, we will continue growing, learning and loving. Whenever somebody or something
passes out of our earthly life into new life, something unexpected and beautiful will appear to fill the void.
Every breath here on Earth is a gift, a mystery and a chance to awaken something still un-birthing
in ourselves and others. Let our hearts rejoice and sing through any grief or loss into new joy and appreciation.
I believe that **2010** will bring new joy, hope and inspiration to us and to this planet.
May God’s infinite light and joy renew you and fill your life creatively each day.
May the living Christ abide in you more deeply and awaken new beauty and radiance in you.
May **2010** find our hearts more open, sensitive and caring than ever before!

The United Church of Christ

At our last UCC Council meeting we all confirmed our date for the Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2010. The dinner will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. Our social time will be 5:00 PM for coffee and beverage. Our potluck dinner will be displayed on the buffet table at 5:30 PM. Please bring a salad, entrée or dessert, service for 12 and place on the buffet table. If you think about it, let Donna Goodrich know which item you are bringing. Our Annual Meeting will begin at 6:30 PM, led by Reverend Ken Carlson.

I thought I might let everyone know who our new Officers will be and their positions for 2010:

Moderator - Gary Tidwell
 Vice Moderator - Ken Dukes
 Church Clerk - Cynn timer Vannoy
 Treasurer - Richard Westlund
 Assistant Treasurer - Mary Peterson
 Financial Secretary - Mary Lou Snider
 Assistant Financial Secretary - Linda Neidert
 Historian - J. Hisel
 Head Usher - Don Ross
 Members at Large - Gill Scott, Dr. Ed Gross and Art Peterson
 Board of Deacons - Don Ross
 Board of Deaconesses - Donna Goodrich will appoint
 Board of Trustees Chair - Jim Wilson will appoint
 Endowment Board - Jim Wilson
 Mission Board Chair - Carol Hisel
 Christ Centered Education Chair - Rev. Ken Carlson
 Music Board Chair - Elyce Elyra
 Membership Chair - Rev. Don Vannoy
 Special Events Chair - Eleta Tidwell
 Legal Committee Advisor - Alan Gooding
 Prayer Garden Chair - Morris Nyquist
 Stewardship Chair - Dorothy Flory

We have three UCC Council positions open, that I would be most happy to discuss with any member who would have an interest in these positions:

Human Resources
 Undershepherds
 Pastoral Relations / Special Gifts

Incoming Moderator 2010,
 Gary Tidwell



Meditations of the Moderator

Art Peterson

Some Meandering Thoughts About New Years Day and New Years Resolutions From
Your Mischievous Moderator.

If we are to believe our historian friends, New Years Day may well be the oldest of all holidays. We are told it was first observed by the Babylonians about 4,000 years ago. In the years around 2000 they celebrated the beginning of a new year on what is now March 23, although they had no written calendar.

The Romans continued to observe the beginning of the new year on March 25, but their calendar was continuously tampered with by various emperors so the holiday soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set things right, the Roman Senate in 153 B.C. declared January 1, to be the beginning of the new year.

At that time, Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces Janus could look back on past events and at the same time look forward to the future. Janus became the symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts at the beginning of the new year.

So here we are, looking back at a wonderful year in our warm and welcoming church and celebrating the many moments of deep spirituality and inspiration we have shared. At the same time we look back at some mistakes we have made in our personal lives and as a church family and we resolve to do better in the year before us.

I suspect many of us have made specific resolutions to strengthen our faith personally and to manifest evermore fully the love of God which is the guiding star of Christian beliefs. But, as in the past, resolutions are not always easy to "reify." Having failed so often in the past with our own resolutions we are always pleased to learn that we are not the only ones who err in this regard.

Take Rudyard Kipling, for example. Many of you know him as that great English poet whose timeless poetry has stirred us from our childhood. But I suspect very few of you have ever read his poem on New Year's Resolutions. Written about 125 years ago the poem has seldom been reprinted. But since it so beautifully captures both the aspirations and the weaknesses of our humanity I thought it would be fun to share at least the first verse with you. You will note in this short verse that as the year comes to a close Kipling is very conscious of his bad habits and he resolves to give them all up in one fell stroke. However, he, like us, soon realizes that it is easier to make new year's resolutions than to live by them..

New Year's Resolutions

Rudyard Kipling, 1887

I am resolved throughout the year
To lay my vices on the shelf;
A godly, sober course to steer
And love my neighbor as myself--
Excepting always two or three
Whom I detest, as they hate me.

And so we may add - -

Hopefully, we can aspire
As did Kipling did - - ourselves inspire
But follow not his playful jest
And always live up to our best.

SCRIP

We would like to thank you for your support throughout 2009. Please continue to purchase your SCRIP. It doesn't cost you anything and it helps your church's General Fund.

Happy New Year to ALL !

Thanks so much, Becky & Eleta

BATTERY RECYCLING

You may be aware that your daily life is filled with more and more batteries. And, as they fail, it is now illegal to just toss them aside into the trash. If you bring your used batteries to the church office, I will collect them and take them to the County Hazardous Waste Corporate Yard in Lake Elsinore. You will find a collection box in the back office specifically marked "Batteries" not to be confused with the office recycling. Help be kind to the planet, your home.

Thanks, Becky Miller

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for your many kindnesses, your phone calls, cards, flowers, food and so much more. We appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for us.

In Christian love,
Jeanne & Ken Dukes

MANY THANKS

Wish to express gratitude for so much thoughtfulness from person, for prayers, cards, gifts, visits, errands and expressions of kindness that really helped immeasurably during a recent fall and rehabilitation.

Thank you to each of you, for your time and your givingness, that made every day a little brighter than the day before. May your caring return to you in abundance, in the New Year !

Doree Evanoff



Stewardship for January 2010

This year has been a challenging year for all of us. I know 2010 will be a better year for us. Yes, the challenges will still be here, but we have a greater source on our side. We just need to remember that and work together to make all our dreams come true, and they will !

MANY BLESSINGS IN 2010 TO ALL!

Dorothy Flory,
Stewardship Chair

Our Education Committee members are:

- Jack Young
- Gary Tidwell Co-Chairman,
- Don Vannoy
- Pastor Hal
- Marie Nyquist

Marie Nyquist volunteered to be our Sunday School Superintendent.

We developed a few part time teachers:
Diomy Alexander, Ben & Sarah Mensah, Judy Carlson, Ray & Jackie Hawkins.

Our purpose was to develop a more active Sunday School program through the volunteer leadership of our church. We understand we can't predict attendance for Sunday School, so we asked our teachers to be flexible. Pastor Hal ordered educational materials and criteria from our UCC Conference for our weekly lessons. We envisioned several different age programs.

Judy Carlson volunteered to take care of our nursery program.

A toddler program - Diaper free thru age 5.

Elementary - grades 1 thru 5.

Junior High - grades 6 thru 8

Senior High - grades 9 - 12.

Earlier in the year we started to seek out a Youth Ministry Director position. The church budget became a problem so we put this position on hold.

Jack Young & Gary Tidwell



JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

LAY READERS

1/03 - Lucia Gallo
 1/10 - Betty Bryant
 1/17 - Ken Dukes
 1/24 - Richard Goward
 1/31 - Eleta Tidwell

GREETERS

1/03 - Jo Pohl
 1/10 - Donna Goodrich
 1/17 - Nadine Sanderson
 1/24 - Jean Jewell
 1/31 - Eleanor Sorenson

GUEST BOOK

1/03 - Virginia Young
 1/10 - Jo Pohl
 1/17 - Jack Young
 1/24 - Eleanor Sorenson
 1/31 - Eleta Tidwell

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

1/1 - 1/31 - Carol & J. Hisel

SOUND TECHNICIAN

1/03 & 1/31 - Todd Ross
 1/10, 1/17 & 1/24 - J. Hisel

SECURITY

1/01 - 1/15 - J. Hisel
 1/16 - 1/31 - Don Ross
 * * * * *

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
 TO ALL !**

I want to thank all those who have helped in the office throughout the year. You gave of your time and I appreciate you so much.

Thank you for your cards and gifts. They were appreciated.

With love to all, Cheryl

DEATHS:

Robert Law, Dec. 13, 2009

JANUARY Anniversaries

James & Carolyn Northcutt, 11th
58 years

Alan & Osanna Gooding, 22nd
26 years

JANUARY Birthdays

Muriel Holmes, 1st
 Nellie Williams, 2nd
 Marion Gauthier, 5th
 William Allison, 7th
 Richard Goward, 7th
 Nadine Sanderson, 9th
 Nina Reilly, 10th
 Don Ross, 10th
 Lillian Johnston, 12th
 Jaime Pia, 12th
 Joyce Cover, 13th
 Becky Miller, 18th
 Alan Gooding, 21st
 Wendy Osborne, 21st
 Virginia Young, 24th
 Dawn Hutchison, 29th
 Carolyn Northcutt, 29th
 Judy Carlson, 31st
 * * * * *

**Cleaning after the holiday,
 need help with something else,
 remember to check out our
 sponsors on the back page of the
 Sonshiner.**

Treasurer's Report		
Month Ending December, 2009		
General Funds Only		
<u>Dec Inc</u>	<u>Dec Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
12,093	13,273	(1,180)
Year to Date Totals		
<u>12Mo Inc</u>	<u>12 Mo. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
185,117	202,469	(17,352)
Respectfully submitted, Richard Westlund		

**Lectionary Lessons
 for January**

**1/03 - Second Sunday
 after Christmas**
 Jer 31:7-14 or Sir 24:1-12
 Ps 147:12-20 or
 Wis of Sol 10:15-21
 Eph 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18
CLOSE TO GOD'S HEART

1/06 - Epiphany
 Isa 60:1-6
 Ps 72:1-7, 10-14
 Eph 3:1-12 * Matt 2:1-12

**1/10 - The Baptism of Christ
 First Sunday After Epiphany**
 Isa 43:1-7 * Ps 29
 Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
AFFIRMED BY LOVE

**1/17- Second Sunday after
 Epiphany**
 Isa 62:1-5 * Ps 36:5-10
 1 Cor 12:1-11
John 2:1-11
EXTRAVAGANT SIGN

**1/24 -Third Sunday after
 Epiphany**
 Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Ps 19 * 1 Cor 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21
GOOD NEWS, GOOD WAYS

**1/31- Fourth Sunday after
 Epiphany**
 Jer 1:4-19 * Ps 71:1-6
 1 Cor 13:1-13
Luke 4: 21-30
PROPHET ON THE EDGE