



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH NEWS

Conference hires Keith Clark as business manager

By Elsa M. J. Seifert

The Board of Directors of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ has announced that Keith Clark has been hired as Business Manager for the Conference, filling the post vacated by Jose Vazquez. Clark began his duties as business manager on Monday, September 17, 2007.

Keith Clark had always thought he wanted to be doing his work in a church and kept that dream alive while he majored in Business Administration at Simpson University, a private Christian college in Redding, CA, where he attended Bible courses and looked toward licensing in his home church. He felt called to work in the church, but not as a pastor, rather as Church Administrator. After many years of business management in various church-related settings including managing a Family Christian Store and then

Cokesbury Books in Pasadena for eight years, he became employed as store manager for El Pueblo, a nonprofit store in Old Town Pasadena which returns its sales profits back to the artisans who supply the artistic products.

The father of twelve-year-old twins, Kaitlyn and Timothy, Clark lives in Hacienda Heights with his wife, Rosa. He brings many years of solid business experience and a deeply rooted commitment to the Christian church. He is "elated" at the prospect of working with the United Church of Christ, as he feels his own spiritual journey has brought him to this place.



Keith Clark is new business manager

photo by Elsa M. J. Seifert

Transition planning continues

By David Cavanaugh, Chair of the Conference Board of Directors

Even as we work on our plans for honoring and saying good-bye to Jane and Dan, the Board of Directors continues to move ahead with our plans for interim conference leadership. The Interim Search committee met in August to put together a job description for our Interim Conference Minister. During that meeting, we also created a "profile lite." This document is designed to give applicants an accurate picture of our Conference. At the September Board of Directors meeting, both of these documents will have been approved.

In October, the Interim Search committee will interview candidates for Interim Conference Minister. The committee plans to present its candidate for the Board's approval at the November meeting. At this meeting, the Board will also approve the search committee for permanent Conference leadership.

Immediately after the November board meeting, the Interim Search Committee will meet with the Interim Conference minister to

draft a job description for an Interim Associate Conference Minister. No timeline has been established for having this position filled, but the Board hopes to have the Interim Associate Conference Minister in place by the end of January.

The search committee for permanent Conference leadership will begin work in January 2008. Their first task will be to put together a Conference profile. The committee members will visit each Association Spring meeting to solicit input into the profile.

The Celebration of the Conference Ministry of Dan and Jane will be held on Saturday, December 8 at 1:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Long Beach. We will begin with a program which will include music, presentations, and a releasing ceremony. The Celebration will then move to Patterson Hall for food and fun.

New play by Art Cribbs will show at San Marino UCC's Stillspeaking Theater on November 3 and 4

"Awaiting Judgment" brings together Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The two Twentieth Century theologians share theology and social justice convictions as they raise serious debates about their decisions. This production challenges people of faith to engage and address social injustice. The setting of the play is a prison block that houses King and Bonhoeffer in isolation. Each is given a separate cell from which he exchanges ideas, memories, and decisions. This dialogue takes place outside the boundaries of time, but lodged in the moments before the impending end of days.

The World Premiere of "Awaiting Judgment" was presented in Hartford, Connecticut, on June 23, 2007, at the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. In 2006, a reading of the play was performed at the Mission Hills Congregational United Church of Christ, San Diego, California.

The director of the play is Dr. Floyd Gaffney, the late Artistic Director of Com-

mon Ground Theatre, who passed away on July 19, 2007. Dr. Gaffney inspired Art Cribbs' writing of the play and guided the direction of the play in every stage of production. Just two days before his death, Floyd Gaffney had a final bedside meeting with the cast of "Awaiting Judgment." This production of "Awaiting Judgment" is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Gaffney, who for 36 years was the artistic director of Southeast Community Theatre and Common Ground Theatre, respectively.

The cast includes veteran actors Anthony Drummond as Martin Luther King, Jr., Craig Huisenga as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Rhys Green as Narrator. Carol Rainey is producer.

The play is not recommended for children under 12.

For information regarding tickets, please contact The Stillspeaking Theatre, Phone number (626) 292-2080. Email address: director@stillspeakingtheatre.org; website www.stillspeakingtheatre.org.



The Stillspeaking Theatre presents a visiting production from The Common Ground Theatre in San Diego

"AWAITING JUDGMENT"
by Art Cribbs

Saturday, November 3, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. and
Sunday, November 4, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

At The Stillspeaking Theatre in San Marino
2560 Huntington Drive, San Marino, California 91108



Fall Association meetings are scheduled

Southern	Oct. 14	La Mesa UCC
Central	Oct. 20	San Marino UCC
Northern	Oct. 27	Woodland Hills UCC
Eastern	Nov. 3	Redlands UCC

CHURCHES, TAX AND REPORTING

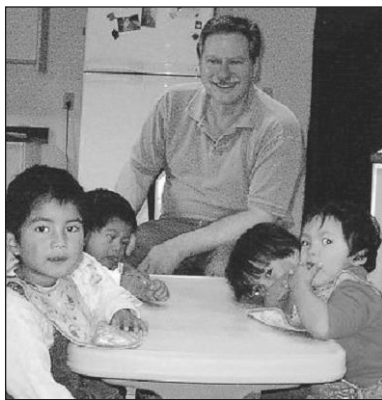
A workshop for treasurers, trustees, pastors and moderators
Presentation led by Hal Schultz, Conference Treasurer and CPA

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Choose one of two locations:

October 7—Conference office in Altadena
November 4—First Congregational UCC in Escondido

To RSVP or for questions, contact office@scncucc.org



Rob and four toddler friends at table



Pastor Joe and sweet Ecuador child

Team Ecuador from Altadena UCC undertakes mission trip

By Elsa M. J. Seifert

Planning and fundraising for a year prior to their trip, a group of hardy souls from **Altadena Community United Church of Christ**, left for Ecuador on July 4, 2007. Led by team leader and pastor Joe McGowan, nine men and women members of "Team Ecuador" mission team headed for an orphanage in the Andes Mountains known as "for His Children" to spend



ACC's Team Ecuador group: from left: Christy Taylor, Michael Aguilera, Jerry Taylor, Sherry Taylor, Pastor Joe McGowan, Jan Torres, Rob Rosania, Maria de Ruyter, Sue Abitanta and Alan Cochran

the next ten days caring for the infants and toddlers living in three houses of the complex, providing assistance for the "Tias" (aunties) during their stay. FHC had become known to the church a few years ago when a presentation was made during an adult education class following worship.

Previously the church had sponsored one of its young members, Christy Taylor, to spend time there on one of her vacations from school, and her heartwarming experience there led her to return. On this third trip, she became one of the team leaders and was welcomed warmly by the staff at FHC.

One of the team members was Sherry Taylor, church moderator and mother of Christy, who wrote in her evaluation: "As a result of

visiting FHC I now know I can be a 'missionary' anywhere I go. God has shown me that I am really blessed and I want to continue to share my blessings with others. This has been an awesome trip for me. I always admired the mission trips my daughter went on, but never thought I could leave my comfort zone. I can't wait to come back! The Tias work very hard and I hope they realize people like me respect and love them. You can count on me for daily prayer support."

An added excitement for the trip was the engagement party held on July 13—a "first" for FHC—when Christy and Michael Aguilera celebrated their engagement with family members and the team from **Altadena Community UCC** and some of the children of FHC.

Talking the Talk at UCV

By Lynne Bradley, member UCV Murrieta

Monday nights, the Community House rocks! Well... not exactly, but some pretty exciting things are happening. The combination of an ever-growing group of eager learners and some encouraging tutors has indeed proven to be a winning one at the Community House, an outreach ministries center sponsored by the United Church of the Valley (DOC/UCC) in Murrieta, CA. Our "English Acquisition" program has been up and running for a couple of months now. Students and tutors alike seem to be having a good time, and a sense of community between learners and tutors is developing.

We hear people say that too many immigrants don't want to learn English. (More accurately, many immigrants don't have the time or opportunity.) How many who make that statement have discovered just how difficult it is to master a foreign language, especially one as illogical as English. Ever try to explain why "eight" and "ate" sound alike? The stories of our students definitely dispel the belief that immigrants don't want to learn English. Two brothers and a sister who have been in this country for eight years amaze us with the amount of English that they have picked up without any formal education. A married couple, both college educated, with a 5 year old boy and baby girl came to our class partially because their son was just beginning kindergarten and they wanted to be sure that he gets off to a good start at school. The son comes to class with his parents and already speaks English almost exclusively when he is with us. Another young woman is in class to be able to do better in her job at a local fast food restaurant. One of the girls coming to us with very limited previous education in Mexico and none in the US is making very impressive progress. Her determination and hard work is truly an inspiration. One young man who is quite fluent verbally wants to learn to read and write.

We have a great team of tutors and a dynamic lead-teacher, a "pro" who teaches English as a Second Language in a local high



school. Classroom time is divided between group instruction where the entire group learns and practices a concept together and breakout times where tutors work with small groups of students reinforcing the lessons being presented. Many of our tutors have trained in the Laubach Literacy method and our Community House has been certified as a Laubach Literacy Center. Other tutors have received "on-the-job" training.

When we first dreamed of establishing an English Acquisition program, the hope was that eventually we could find ways for sharing cultures and building relationships and friendships between students and tutors. One opportunity has already presented itself. When a couple of our tutors expressed an interest in learning Spanish, one of our ESL students volunteered to lead a class in Spanish (SSL). As our English Acquisition program continues to grow and develop, we look forward to many more opportunities to learn from one another.



Expanding Our Welcome

OutFront San Diego is a major forum to help churches considering the Open and affirming process, as well as those who want to move beyond initial hospitality, and is scheduled by the Mission Hills UCC in San Diego in cooperation with the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies of the Pacific School of Religion.

The forum will take place on October 12-13 at the Mission Hills church. For more information, please visit the website at <http://outfrontsd.eventbrite.com>.

BE SURE TO SAVE THIS DATE

Congregational Vitality Event
for all church leaders

Theme:
Our Church's Emerging Multicultural Mission
February 1 and 2, 2008

Featuring success stories from congregations and including ideas for you to use, nuts and bolts and how-to's

Location to be announced
Call Conference Office for details

Registration and more details in E-News and mid-month mailings, beginning in October

You will not want to miss this 3rd Annual Multicultural

HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL

at Diamond Bar United Church of Christ
2335 Diamond Bar Blvd.

Sunday, October 21—4-7 p.m. with dinner at 5:30
Free Admission. All Welcome!

Songs, games, Martial Arts and Cultural Demonstrations
(Japanese Kishin Daiko drum, etc.)

Harvest Moon is celebrated all over Asia as a "Thanksgiving Day"
Children are especially welcome. Questions? Call 909-861-4735

National Youth Event held in Tennessee in '08

Youth all over the Conference are fundraising and gearing up to get to the much anticipated National Youth Event scheduled for July 24–28, 2008, at the University of Tennessee.

The keynoter for the event is Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister, Minister for Youth, Young Adult and Outdoor Ministries of Local Church Ministries, a covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ. Some of the youth who attended General Synod in Hartford in June of this year will remember Rev. McCallister for her impassioned address that lifted up the bright future of the UCC embodied in its young people, and urged everyone there to pay attention to them, get to know them and learn their stories.

For information and details, please call Phil Jenkins, Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at the Conference Office, 626-798-8082.



Pilgrim Pines looks to new directions with new staff

A letter from Phil Geissal, Executive Director, and Topher Nichols, Program/Camp Director

Your **Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center** is alive and springing into action for the months ahead and the many tomorrows to come. We are eager to share that excitement with your congregation. We are a part of a new staff that is leading the Pines in a direction of new programs, year round usage, and a lower cost structure that will permit everyone to participate. The first step is taking place in the **Capital Campaign**, expanding the Dining Hall and Kitchen, an exciting improvement that will be under way this fall and winter. We are working now to revitalize and reenergize the overall Capital Campaign to make a better, not bigger, Pilgrim Pines. Facilities will be upgraded and programs expanded, all which seek to further our mission of "Providing an Extravagant Welcome to All while they discover and discern God." We do want your input and to share the dream with each and every one of you.

As your new Executive Director and the new Program and Camp Director we are working daily to move Pilgrim Pines into 2008 and beyond to better serve our churches, our Conference and all who find their way to this sacred place on the mountain. We would like you to contact us to schedule a Sunday where either Phil or Topher can come to your worship service, say a word about Pilgrim Pines, provide further information after the service and perhaps even play a camp song on the guitar. (Actually Topher will play a song as Phil has not figured out how to use the guitar yet.) We do want to share with you the many program opportunities at Pilgrim Pines: Summer Camp for 2008, our fall 2007 and the special events of winter and spring of 2008. We want to encourage and excite you to register early, as we are working hard to design a summer camp and other programs that everyone will want to participate in and attendance will fill up fast.

We look forward to talking to you while we build and strengthen the UCC relationship and participation this next year and beyond as we move forward in our programming and growth.

Ten Things to Do...

Want to do something to help stop global warming? Here are ten simple things you can do and how much carbon dioxide you'll save doing them.

- **Change a light**—Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.
- **Drive less**—Walk, bike, carpool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive.
- **Recycle more**—You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.
- **Check your tires**—Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.
- **Use less hot water**—It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a low-flow showerhead (350 pounds of CO₂ saved per year) and washing clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).
- **Avoid products with a lot of packaging**—You can save 1200 pounds of CO₂ if you cut down your garbage by 10%.
- **Adjust your thermostat**—Moving your thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer will save about 2000 pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Plant a tree**—A single tree will absorb one ton of CO₂ over its lifetime.
- **Turn off electronic devices**—Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo and computer when you're not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide each year.
- **Be aware**—of the many places you can save energy, recycle, reuse, repair, etc.

Pilgrim Place celebrates its 59th annual Festival

Would you believe 59 years of wonderful, festive celebrations at Pilgrim Place?

In Claremont, CA, there is a most unique place where there is an ecumenical community of "retired" ministers, missionaries, YM/YWCA executives, and other church leaders.

This is **Pilgrim Place** and every year a two-day celebration is held that features the creative crafts, talents and skills of residents. This year's celebration is on Friday and Saturday, **November 9 and 10** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visitors can enjoy a craft fair and marketplace with more than 35 booths selling everything from plants and pottery to hand-crafted jewelry, stained glass, used books, and much more. Take a ride on the "Mayflower-on-Wheels", savor tasty treats from the food courts or at the **outdoor luncheon** of turkey, mashed sweet potato, green beans, cole slaw, pie and more. Children ride the **Massasoit Superchief Train** and hear stories at the **Wampanoag Indian Village**. Create works of art at the "glue in" and contribute to the **All Creatures Mural**. Highlight of the afternoon at 1:45 p.m. is an historical drama, "The Pilgrim Story", that authentically depicts the story of Pilgrims from the time they left England until they arrived at Plymouth in search of religious freedom.

Proceeds from this two-day event where visitors enjoy "old-fashioned fun in a beautiful hometown setting" will go to provide financial support to those who have devoted their lives to serving others and who now need help themselves.

Please call 909-621-9581 for more information and directions.



Phil Geissal installation at Pines on Apple Pie Day

Saturday, November 3, will be a brand new approach to "Apple Pie Day" at the Pines. Starting at 2:00 p.m. tours of the facility including update plans and sports and crafts will be available, with the famous meal and apple pie served at 5:30 p.m. in the dining hall.

Vespers will begin at 6:00 and will include the installation of the Pines new **Executive Director, Phil Geissal**, along with the new **Camp Program Director, Topher Nichols** and other permanent staff.

Jim Manley, singer-songwriter extraordinaire, will hold forth at 7:00 p.m. at a Fireplace Concert and group sing-along. Offered is an optional overnight stay at the Pines on Saturday night.

Please call the Pines at 909-797-1821 for cost and reservations.

Thanksgiving Reunion Camp is special

By Elsa M. J. Seifert

The Pines is applying special rules for this new **Thanksgiving Weekend Reunion Camp** which is scheduled for **November 23–25**. In order to attend you, or a family member, must have been a volunteer, staff member or camper at Pilgrim Pines sometime during the past 63 years. (Does that cover just about everybody in this Conference?)

Activities for all ages are planned. Cabin units will be set aside for families. Special reunion sweatshirts will be given to all who attend for the full time. Rates and reservation information can be obtained by calling the Pines at 909-797-1821 or by logging on to www.pilgrimcamp.org.

Interfaith understanding is goal of Week of Prayer

A week of prayer for interfaith understanding has been called for during the week of October 13–21 by many religious groups in the Southern California Nevada area including our Conference, the Southern California Ecumenical Council and the South Coast Interfaith Council.

The mission for this week is to become the beloved community of people of faith who are brought to a greater understanding of one another through prayer, celebration and dialogue. It is suggested minimally that a prayer for interfaith understanding, respect and appreciation be voiced during weekly communal worship time.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Rev. Ginny Wagener at 562-983-1665 or at revgwagener@yahoo.com.

Websites that may be of interest...

www.faithinpubliclife.org

Faith in Public Life, Resource Center for Justice and the Common Good

www.tentofabraham.org

Tent of Abraham has information on the Fast for Peace, sponsored by the NCC on October 8.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE...

If you have an event you wish to share about, please send it to me by email at eseifert@pacbell.net and place SCNCNews item in the subject line.

■ **Correction:** The August/September issue in the *Mid-Month Mailer Deadlines* listing dropped the "a" from arroyo@scnccucc.org. Our apologies for the confusion.

■ **Northern Association** meets October 27 at **Woodland Hills Community UCC** from 9:30-2:30 and has invited everyone interested in their program: Presentation on Seeds of Reconciliation in the Middle East. (See Association meetings schedule in another part of this issue.) Contact: shealy522@msn.com.

■ The **Dead Sea Scrolls** are on exhibit at the San Diego Museum of Natural History and a trip there promises an amazing experience. Both **University City UCC** (August 5) and **Montebello Plymouth UCC** (August 28) have visited there with their church group and have written that it is very worthwhile. The Scrolls will be on exhibit through the last week of December 2007.

■ **Rev. David Krueger-Duncan**, pastor at **Northwest Community UCC**, Las Vegas, writes recently of the death of his mother, Karin Krueger in August. Please keep Dave and his family in your prayers.

■ **Rev. Norma DeSaegher**, pastor at **Pioneer Ocean View UCC** in San Diego, had a surgical procedure on August 29. We wish her a speedy recovery, and healing and energy to participate in the church's 100th anniversary celebration on September 23.

■ With great joy, **Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg**, **Conference Moderator**, and pastor at **San Bernardino First Congregational UCC**, and her husband, Dave, became foster parents of Ana Cristina, who was born on August 28. Petra writes thanks for well wishes and prayers during this time of welcoming a new child into their home with the possibility of adopting her in the coming months.

■ A new mission is unfolding at **San Marino First Congregational UCC** as the church becomes involved in funding for

water tanks in various rural villages in Africa: Machakos, Kenya; Kampala, Uganda; and Arrusha, Tanzania. See more on this at www.sanmarinoucc.org and www.waterforchildrenafrica.org. There may be opportunity for international travel and growth coming up in the future

■ Channel 4 News in September covered the **Simi Valley UCC** and their involvement with the **New Sanctuary Movement**. **Rev. June Goudy**, pastor, was interviewed. It was good to see that the UCC is getting some more extensive coverage by the news media.

■ **Seaside Community UCC in Torrance** presents their 23rd annual concert by the Richard Sherman Trio, a contemporary jazz group, on Saturday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at the James Armstrong Theatre in Torrance. Please call the church at 310-375-4441 for more information and tickets. Proceeds benefit the support of the many outreach groups sponsored by the Seaside church.

■ **UCC President, Rev. John Thomas**, urges signing of a petition supporting opposition to the war in Iraq. Individuals may go to the UCC homepage at www.ucc.org and find the petition through the links. His goal is to collect 100,000 signatures to take to Washington, DC early in October. Hurry!

■ **Teresa Kittredge of California City Community UCC** has donated two quilts to the fundraising effort of her daughter, Courtney Black, who will participate in the "Three-Day Breast Cancer Walk" which benefits the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Teresa is offering tickets until October 15 on the drawing for the quilts for your donations. Contact the church at 760-373-2346 for more information.

■ Pastors of small churches (fewer than 100 attending Sunday worship) and their spouses or partners can participate in a nine-day, all expenses paid, project of **The Summer Collegium**, an ecumenical project sponsored by Lilly Endowment, Inc. There are 25 openings for the program taking place at Virginia Theological Seminary. The project is scheduled for June 25-July 3, 2008. Applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2007. Contact Rev. Marilyn Johns at mjohns@vts.edu.

Vital Churches

By Gary Roberts, Conference Associate for Church Development and Renewal

This issue's church-development story is from **Redlands United Church of Christ**



Redlands UCC has a story to share about growth in numbers and in spirit. From 2002 to the present, covenanting membership has grown from 80 to 145, with additional participating friends growing from 76 to 128. Weekly worship averages 133, up from 85 in 2002. The congregation's President, Dianne Landeros, attributes the consistent growth to "congruency," that is, elements of worship, leadership, music, art, preaching, building, and programs that came together at the right time. "We are an ONA congregation, welcoming from our founding (35 years ago), with a building designed to reflect our vision statement of being accessible to all. Throughout the facility, and especially in the sanctuary, windows open out onto the world."

Ms. Landeros and Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff, the church's Pastor and Teacher since April 2002, agree that Redlands UCC is alert to the needs within the community and attentive to addressing them directly. Both pastor and laity have written letters to the editor, appeared at City Council meetings, and enthusiastically sponsored forums featuring League of Women Voters, prominent speakers, such as Barry Lynn of the **Separation of Church and State**, and films of environmental import. "It is our job," reflects Ms. Landeros, "to invite the community in to see things and to hear people that impact our world. When we hosted *An Inconvenient Truth*, the sanctuary was so full that we had to schedule a second showing. People are hungry for church to be a place where relevant topics are presented and discussed; at the same time, such activities help define our congregation as a place of relevance within the community, the nation, and the world."

Courage, compassion, and grace are favorite words heard often in the church's prophetic and pastoral preaching. And this congregation is willing to translate their faith into political action. Several members are or have been in key leadership positions within city and county structures. Two years ago, the church became a home for a local coalition formed to fight the appearance of a cross on the city's seal, and currently is serving as a meeting place for another interfaith coalition formed for economic justice focused on keeping a Wal-Mart Supercenter out of Redlands. In partnership with other faith communities in Redlands, **RUCC** has given birth to a local ecumenical counseling center, a nationwide food provision program, and a program to assist parolees and their families as they readjust to life outside prison walls.

Affirms both Graff and Landeros, **Redlands UCC** is growing as a result of "us being us with great integrity, and newer members as well as charter members telling their friends that we are all excited about what we are doing and about who we are on the journey of faith. The congregation is dynamic and our members energized by this congruency of values, activities, programs, and people."

As I prepared this column, I asked Graff and Landeros, "What can other churches learn from this story?" Rev. Graff's response was, "Know who you are, and then be who you are." Nicely said, Sharon: a clear vision, then living the vision.

Deadlines for SCNC News in 2007-08

Please send in any articles or call with information about events to (626) 798-8082 and ask Virginia for my phone number, or email to: eseifert@pacbell.net by the following dates:

October 28
December 28
February 26

for Dec/Jan issue
for Feb/Mar issue
for Apr/May issue

Conference Mid-Month Mailer Deadlines 2007-08

Issue in 2007	Deadline	Issue Mailed
Nov/Dec	Oct. 12	Nov. 1
Jan/Feb 2008	Jan. 2	Jan. 11

Please submit your flyer or article by the deadline dates to:

Virginia Arroyo
Southern California Nevada Conference
2401 N. Lake Ave., Altadena, CA 91001
Phone: 626-798-8082 FAX: 626-798-6648
arroyo@scnccucc.org

The *Southern California Nevada Conference News* is published six times each year for churches, friends and related organizations of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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