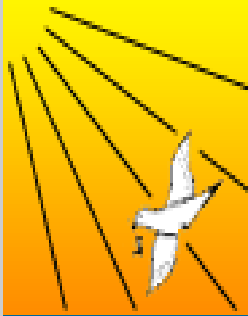


**FRESNO
SUNNYSIDE
SDA CHURCH**



Sunnyside News

Sunnyside News is a weekly publication designed to inform members and subscribers of our current news and events

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 22, 2009

PASTOR'S NOTES

UPDATE ON MEDITATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Many people have inquired as to how the new Meditative Worship Service is going. In two words, the answer is "very well". We have a solid core of people who attend each week, with attendance ranging from 20 - 25. Those who attend say they appreciate the intimacy and sense of connectedness that a small group affords. They also like the 15 minute A session that follows the sermon, which has resulted in many insightful discussions. If you haven't attended the Meditative Service, I encourage you to set your alarm clock this coming Sabbath and give it a try.

MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE START TIME

The church board asked that I gently remind the congregation that the main worship service begins at 11 a.m. Our worship leaders are prepared start on time each week, but are often hesitant to do so because so few people are in their seats at 11:00. Please help us get started on time by making a reasonable effort to be in the sanctuary and seated by 11:00.

REFRESHMENT TABLE COORDINATOR

We are in need of someone to coordinate the refreshment table after the main service each week. This position does not require any personal expense. There is a fund set up to cover all expenses related to the refreshment table. If you are interested or want more information, please contact me (647-9485 or dennis@sunnysidesda.org).

CONSTITUENTS NEEDED

Fresno Adventist Academy's annual constituency meeting will be held at the school on February 8. Sunnyside is allowed to send up to 24 delegates to represent our congregation. We're having a difficult time finding 24 delegates, so please let us know if you are at all interested. Contact Bud Dickerson (250-7569 or dickers@fresno.edu).

**In this week's
issue...**

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WORSHIP CELEBRATION

January 24, 2009
11:00 A.M.

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Welcome
Pastor Dennis Ray

"Oh Lord, You're Beautiful"

"Breathe on Me"

"We Have Come Into This Place"

Garden of Prayer
Cheryl Crouch

Children's Story
Mike Menes

Offering

"I Surrender All"
Michelle Messing

"How Growth Happens"
Pastor Ray

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Men's Ministry Breakfast – Hometown Buffet, Clovis 8:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Adventurer & Pathfinder Clubs – Church 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study – Marsh home 6:30 p.m.

SABBATH, JANUARY 31

Meditative Service 8:30 a.m.
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

January 31 — Pastor Ray

February 7 — Pastor Ray

February 14 — Pastor Ray

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

January Approved Budget	\$18,300.00
Amount Received	10,454.52
Over (Short)	(7,845.48)
YTD Approved Budget	\$18,300.00
Amount Received	10,454.52
Over (Short)	(7,845.48)

Youth Pastor Fund:	\$29,022.15
Children's Offering YTD:	\$409.50

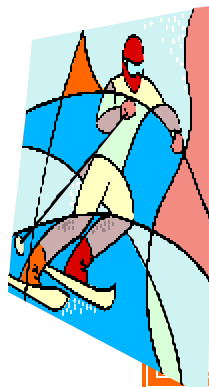
This Week's Offering:

Religious Liberty

<i>Tonight</i> 5:15p.m.	Sunset	<i>Next Friday</i> 5:21 p.m.
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YOUTH NEWS

Vespers/Game/Movie Night planned for **this Saturday** night at the Burkhardt's house. It's going to be more fun if you're there, so plan to attend and bring a friend! If you need a ride, please call or email Rod at 213-7671 or rodturley@yahoo.com and we'll make arrangements to get you there.



YOUTH LAKE TAHOE SKI TRIP FEBRUARY 12 -16

THE WEEKEND'S GUEST SPEAKER
WILL BE CALEB FOSS
\$150 PER PERSON
FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION SINGERS! Please meet at **10:15 a.m.** to rehearse and prepare with the choristers for the morning's service.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Second Reading: Sondra, Michael, and Rebekah Gradillas to Tulare. Kevin and Veronica Wagenleitner to Seven Palms.



MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

The men of Sunnyside are invited to meet for breakfast at Hometown Buffet in Clovis **this Sunday** morning at 8:00. Bring your fathers, sons, brothers, friends, and plan to get a lift for your day through sharing faith and fellowship. Questions? Call Dave Crouch at 903-3930.



VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER FEBRUARY 14, 6-9PM



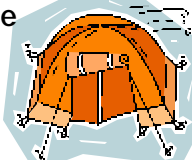
Join us in the Community Center for an evening of delicious food & side-splitting fun among friends. Our dinner will feature an Italian Buffet, and will include pastas with marinara & alfredo sauces, vegetarian & real meatballs, sautéed vegetables, salad, garlic bread, gourmet desserts & hot drinks prepared by our own Cheryl Colombini & Co.

We will enjoy... live music! ...the Newlywed Game! (with church members as participants) and other great games & prizes! **You will enjoy all this for only \$10 per person.**

No children. Childcare will be provided for \$2.50 per child or \$5 per family. (Pizza will be provided.)

ATTENTION CAMPERS

Sunnyside's annual "Church in the Mountains" will be the weekend of **August 15**. Sites are available at Camp Edison for those who like to camp out. The campsites go quickly, so get your reservations now! Gary Shimmin will have forms available at church, or you can contact him at 871-0684 or gary@shimmin.us for more information. **Completed forms must be returned to Gary this Sabbath.**



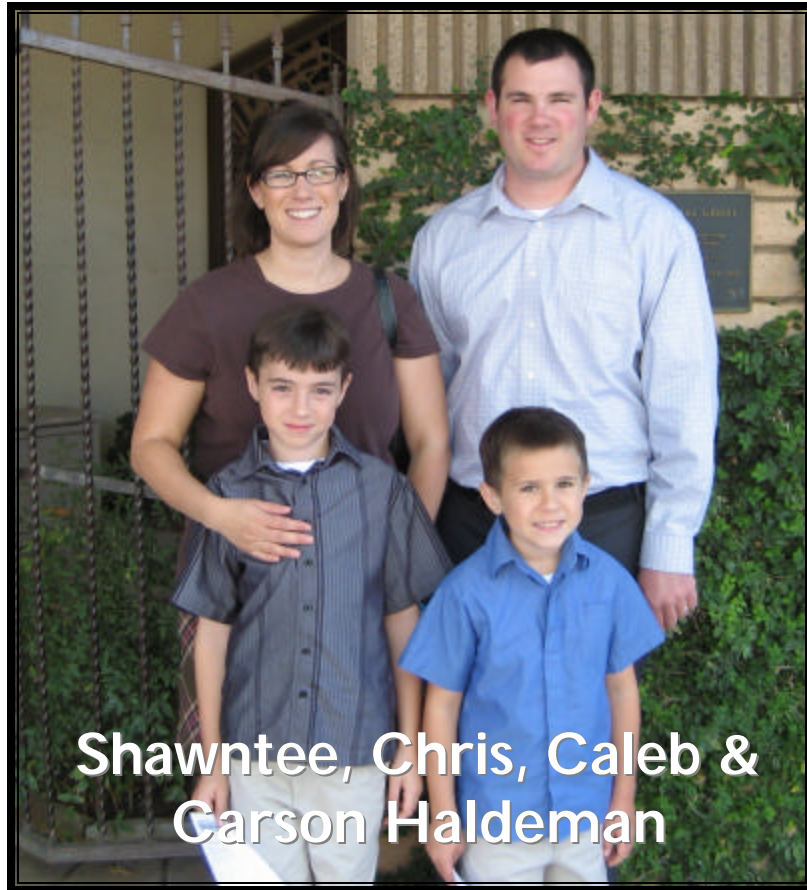
CCC WOMEN'S RETREATS

Plan to attend one of these Women's Retreats: **January 30 - February 1** at Tenaya Lodge, featuring Dr. Richard Neal, MD and Marti Jones; or **February 6-8**, at Soquel Conference Camp-ground, featuring Carol Zarska and Cathy Montague. You will be glad you came to hear their inspirational and spiritual messages designed for women. We believe your Heavenly Father has a blessing in store for you! Please ask Him if you should go. Contact your local Women's Ministry Leader or Pat Curtis at 642-2396 for more information. There are a limited number of full scholarships specifically for non-SDAs, if you would like to invite someone to attend. Some restrictions apply.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Ministries has started a new Bible study at our Wednesday night small group. We will be going through Exodus and also looking at some "last days" events and prophecies as seen in the book of Ezekiel. Come join us for this study each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sherry Marsh. For more information or, if you have questions, please contact Sherry, 224-9005.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY
Building Lives Through Relationships...



Shawntee, Chris, Caleb & Carson Haldeman



**Jennifer, Charlotte & Steve
Cosner with grandma
Bernadette Randall**

Church Address:
364 East Barstow
Fresno, CA 93710

Office & Mailing Address:
5305 North Fresno Street
Suite 102A
Fresno, CA 93710

Phone: 559.229.5501

Fax: 559.229.5502

Email: churchoffice@sunnysidesda.org

Website: www.sunnysidesda.org

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO...**

Dustin Carrisosa (1/25)
Mark Johnson (1/25)
MaryLou Kolstad (1/25)
Frank Carpenter (1/27)
Justin Merriam (1/27)
Lauren Ovando (1/27)
Derek Ray (1/27)
Maxine Smith (1/27)
Dan Kittle (1/28)
Sandy Shimmin (1/28)
Zadie Smith (1/28)
Antonio Bell (1/30)
Jerry Koch (1/30)
Jenny Ramirez (1/30)

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO...**

Mark & Melissa Gillaspay
(1/28)

THE LAST WORD



I plopped in my easy chair after lugging the last piece of equipment back to storage. It had been a grueling day -- another day of chasing a bride. That's what we call it in the photography business. You play tag with the bride as she flits from the make-up table to hugs; from flowers to dresses; from the aisle to the cake; from reception to a limo. All while you try to capture memorable photos.

It is demanding physically and emotionally. Months of detailed planning and preparation precede each wedding and everyone's feelings float warily on the surface. For many, weddings mile-mark the beginning of an empty nest. Someone's son and someone's daughter are leaving home and parents behind in anticipation of forging a future and a home of their own. Because it's the event of a lifetime, everything must be perfect. After all, there are no second chances for the photography -- it must be done right. And it must be done right the first time.

Everyone seems to know of a sad photographic experience at a wedding. That is why I triple check everything, have backup equipment, and force myself to keep a level head. My clients and even my wife compliment me on my ability to go with the flow and not get stressed during these highly stressful occasions.

Satisfied with the day's results, I balked at the thought of the next bride, surprised to acknowledge that, after thirty years of honing my craft, I felt insecure. This sitting would be tougher than most. It was a bridal portrait and the final image would be large and displayed on an easel at the wedding reception. Mothers-of-the-brides are infamous for their demanding reputations, distress over letting go of their daughters, and angst at the thought of the holes left in their lives. This particular MOB carried the added burden of being a relative.

Yes, a relative. They are always the most difficult. Relatives expect more. They expect perfect work. And they expect perfect work for free. Many photographers refuse to photograph family events. But I am a pro and pride myself on keeping all those tensions in check. Once I commit there's no turning back.

Shouldering the responsibility, I load my car and drive to the site the bride chose. A glance upward confirms a cooperative sky as I hunch to inspect the gear packed into my trunk. I load film first -- sure don't want to make that simple mistake. Then I double-check the lighting systems, set up the tripod, and make test shots. All is well; all is calm. And I'm ready just as the bride arrives.

She looks so young. Too young to get married. "Are you sure you're old enough to be legal?" I deadpan. She looks startled, then grins. "Almost twenty-two," she insists. "Legal and beyond!" My brows shoot up and I shake my head doubtfully. "Don't you feel some guilt for leaving your parents?" She shakes her head and giggles.

She's giddy -- just like all the rest. She's in wispy white -- just like all the rest. She's accompanied by her faithful entourage -- just like all the rest. It's her final picture as daughter, her first as a bride. And I can see by the expression on her face that she's ready to grasp the kite-tail of her dreams and fly into her future.

I am fully prepared to make a beautiful portrait. I know the procedure so well -- place her feet just so, shift her weight, angle her shoulders, tilt her head, position her hand into graceful "Barbie doll fingers"... and then be ready for the perfect expression she and this picky MOB hope for.

Both of them have planned this image all their lives. They're expecting that Cinderella look-and-feel they always envisioned. Well, this bride is drop-dead gorgeous. I nod in approval. It's going to be a piece of cake.

I bend my head to look through the viewfinder. Something is dreadfully wrong with this picture. It's out of focus. The bride looks odd, she looks too... young. I check the settings and try again. Now the bride is fuzzy.

"What's going on?" I mutter. Once more, I examine the camera. All is in order. No, wait. The lens is fogged. My heart flutters and I steady myself. Yet, no matter how hard I try to call on my years of professional training, I can't seem to make this picture clear. A jagged breath catches in my throat and I suddenly understand the problem.

With a rueful sigh, I turn away and swipe roughly at the mist of tears blurring my optics. No pro worth his salt would let them be discovered.

I corral my emotions. "Turn a little. And, lean in," I hear myself say in a surprisingly normal tone. "Now, a sweet smile, Sweetie," I swallow hard. "A special smile just for your old... er... for your groom." I force myself to separate my personal feelings from the image in the lens. "That's it. That's it. Yes... wow!"

Click. Click, click, click. I clear my throat and manage a broad beam in spite of myself. "What a beautiful, blushing bride." Another daughter leaving the nest to find her future. I shake my head ruefully. My daughter. This daddy's little girl.