



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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 23, 2009

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT

According to Todd Bristol, chair of the fundraising committee, we received \$6,000 in contributions to the renovation project last Sabbath. That brings us to \$255,442 cash received for the renovation project since the close of escrow on June 24. This is significant! Thank you for your giving to this project.

To see the latest pictures of the renovation progress, go to:

[http://sunnyside.adventistfaith.org/photo\\_albums/2493](http://sunnyside.adventistfaith.org/photo_albums/2493)

Thank you to all who came out last Sunday to help dig trenches for the plumbing in the bathroom.

### FAA CONSTITUENTS NEEDED

Fresno Adventist Academy's annual constituency meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Ricchiuti Auditorium. Sunnyside is allowed 24 delegates to represent our congregation at the meeting. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Bud Dickerson at [Bud.Dickerson@fresno.edu](mailto:Bud.Dickerson@fresno.edu) or 250-8569.

### CHRISTMAS CONTRAST

Through the prophet Isaiah, God has told us that His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8). The way God carries out the business of His kingdom is different than the way we carry out our affairs. That is certainly true of the way in which He came to us. Had we been in charge of the birth of Jesus, we would have done it with more fanfare. But, that isn't God's way. Philip Yancey says:

*"When Queen Elizabeth II visited the United States, reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her four thousand pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, forty pints of plasma, and white kid leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. In contrast, God's visit to Earth took place humbly, in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn King but a feed trough. A mule could have stepped on him."*

On behalf of the Sunnyside SDA Church staff, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and safety if you are traveling.

#### In this week's issue...

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**WORSHIP  
CELEBRATION**

**December 26, 2009  
11:00 A.M.**

**“Joy to the World”**

**Welcome**  
Pastor Dennis Ray

**“Come, Now is the Time  
to Worship”  
“Sanctuary”  
“Silent Night”**

**Garden of Prayer**

**Children’s Story**  
Mike Menes

**Home for the Holidays**  
Pastor Ray

**Trumpet Solo**  
Dan Lichti

**Offering**

**Benediction**

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29**

NO Adventurer Club until January 5  
Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-  
staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

**SABBATH, JANUARY 2**

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

**Sunset**

<i>Tonight</i>	<i>Next Friday</i>
4:47p.m.	4:53p.m.

**PREACHING SCHEDULE**

**January 2** — Pastor Cal  
**January 9** — Pastor Ray  
**January 16** — Pastor Ray

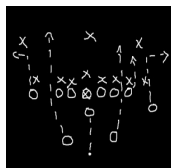
**MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY**

<b>December</b> Approved Budget	\$18,300.00
Amount Received	12,733.30
Over (Short)	(12,843.36)
<b>YTD</b> Approved Budget	\$219,600.00
Amount Received	197,359.57
Over (Short)	(22,240.43)
Youth Pastor Fund	\$30,732.64
Church Building Fund	\$399,784.36

This Week’s Offering  
  
Conference Faith Advance

**YOUTH EVENTS**

**YOUTH SABBATH PLANNING SESSION**



**JANUARY 2** — Plan to stick around after church for potluck so we can sort out what we would like to do for the church service on the 30th of January. We need your help - so come, throw some food in your stomach & some ideas into the "pot".

**WHAT’S COMIN’ UP?**

**...IN JANUARY**

- January 2 & 23 - Planning for Youth Sabbath
- January 8 - Vespers at the Burkharts’
- January 16 - Monsters Ice Hockey Game (tickets \$12)
- January 29 - Vespers at FAA
- January 30 - Youth Sabbath

**...IN FEBRUARY**

- February 5 - Vespers at Pastor Cal’s
- February 7 - Super Bowl Party at the Fords’
- February 11-15 - Annual Ski Trip
- February 20 - Youth Social
- February 26 - Vespers at FAA



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RENOVATION FUND REPORT

Over \$6,000 was given to the renovation fund last Sabbath. We want to thank each one of you who has given to the Church Renovation Project.

As we move through the holiday season we invite each member to give generously to this project. Every dollar given at this time is important to moving the project forward. If you have not given to this project now is an excellent time as we still are well short of the funds needed to complete this project. Please prayerfully consider what you will do.

### CHURCH OFFICE

#### CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Church Office will be closed **December 24 thru January 1** for the holidays. However, you will be able to reach Pastor Dennis (647-9485), Pastor Cal (367-7026) and Angela (994-5502) while the office is closed.

### FAA CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Fresno Adventist Academy Constituency Meeting that will be held on Sunday, **January 24** at 9:00 a.m. Doors will open and registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Those serving as delegates should check in no later than 8:45 a.m. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

### FAA LIBRARY AUXILIARY

Fresno Adventist Academy announces the formation of a Library Auxiliary. We need volunteers to shelve, checkout, repair, and catalog books; monitor circulation; read stories; identify, pull and label leveled readers; and assist with book fairs. Skills needed: knowledge of library and computer systems, enjoy children, ability to create and manage a positive learning environment. Contact Mrs. Hoover at (425) 275-6156 or [khoover@faa.org](mailto:khoover@faa.org).



### MANY THANKS TO SECRET SANTA

Thank you to our "Secret Santa" who has given new meaning and joy to the twelve days of Christmas! We wait with eager anticipation for the mail each day and wonder at our good fortune. Such a generous gesture! We will treasure each gift and wish you a special blessing this Christmas. - *The Dickersons*

The Kerbs Family thanks their Secret Santa from Sunnyside Church for their thoughtfulness and love shown this Christmas. Words cannot express what it means to us to be a part of such a caring and loving church family. Thank you for taking the time to brighten our Christmas with a surprise!

- *Rod, Yvette, Christiana and Elle Kerbs*

Unbelievable generosity!!...thanks Secret Santa.

- *Cal & Jessica Redman*

Thanks again, Secret Santa!

- *the Ray family*

### EARLY BULLETIN & NEWLETTER DEADLINES

Please submit your announcements of 50 words or fewer to: [bulletinstaff@sunnysidesda.org](mailto:bulletinstaff@sunnysidesda.org). All info is due by 6:00 p.m. Tuesday (12-29).

### ANNUAL SNOW SPORT DAY!

Join us Sunday, February 28 for the 1st Annual SDA Snow Sport Day. Bring your family to Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort for a great discounted day of skiing and snowboarding! This is a special day only for members of a Seventh-day Adventist church or school. On February 28, go to Copper Lane Ticketing in the Village at Northstar across from the rental shop, and receive up to 28% off downhill skiing lift tickets. Adult (23-64): \$57; Young Adult (13-22): \$46; Child (5-12): \$17; Senior (65-69): \$46; Super Senior (70+): \$17. Special guest speakers, leading us to a more intimate walk with Christ through Nature: Matt Parra, Director of Arise Institute; Nathan Renner, Director/Co-founder of Arise Institute; Ivor Myers, Director of The Power of the Lamb Ministries. Don't ski or snowboard? No problem, Northstar Resort offers many other fun activities for the family like cross country skiing, ice skating, tubing, candle-making, and beading. Please contact Adele Attix at (530) 562-8024 for more information.

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



**Bill & Denise McEowen**



**Anne Marie Moore**

## THE LAST WORD

### Parallel Universes

by Phillip Yancey (taken from Grace Notes)

Doubt, for me, tends to come in an overwhelming package, all at once. I don't worry much about nuances of particular doctrines, but every so often I catch myself wondering about the whole grand scheme of faith.

I stand in the futuristic airport in Denver, for example, watching important-looking people in business suits, briefcases clutched to their sides like weapons, pause at an espresso bar before scurrying off to another concourse. *Do any of them think about God?* I wonder.

Christians share an odd belief in parallel universes. One universe consists of glass and steel and wool clothes and leather briefcases and the smell of freshly ground coffee. The other consists of angels and sinister forces and somewhere out there places called Heaven and Hell. We palpably inhabit the material world; it takes faith to consider oneself a citizen of the other, invisible world.

Occasionally the two worlds merge for me, and these rare moments are anchors for my faith. The time I snorkeled on a coral reef and suddenly the flashes of color and abstract design flitting around me became a window to a Creator who exults in life and beauty. The time my wife forgave me for something that did not merit forgiveness—that too became a window, allowing a startling glimpse of divine grace.

I have these moments, but soon toxic fumes from the material world seep in. Sex appeal! Power! Money! Military might! These are what matter most in life, I'm told, not the simpering platitudes of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount.

For me, living in a fallen world, doubt seems more like forgetfulness than disbelief.

I, a citizen of the visible world, know well the struggle involved in clinging to belief in another, invisible world. Christmas turns the tables and hints at the struggle involved when the Lord of both worlds descends to live by the rules of the one. In Bethlehem, the two worlds came together, realigned; what Jesus went on to accomplish on planet Earth made it possible for God someday to resolve all disharmonies in both worlds. No wonder a choir of angels broke out in spontaneous song, disturbing not only a few shepherds but the entire universe.

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Website: [www.sunnysidesda.org](http://www.sunnysidesda.org)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO...**

David Smith (12/26)  
Janelle Ward (12/27)  
Mike Ford (12/29)  
Lydia Hernandez (12/29)  
Joel Chandler (12/30)  
Pam Espinosa (12/30)  
Silvia Flores-Funes (12/30)  
Pete Jones (12/30)  
Jaad Batty (12/31)  
Marsha Fox (12/31)  
Terrence Shepherd (12/31)  
Rod Kerbs (1/1)

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY  
TO...**

Erbe & Jerma Palafox (12/27)  
Bill & Sharon Sackett (12/28)  
Ron & Loanne Soloniuk  
(12/29)