

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

CHURCH LIFE

ADVENT 3: KEEPIN' IT REAL

by Ruth Haley Barton in eReflections

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John...he himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. — John 1:6-9

In the Gospel reading for this week, John the Baptist is keepin' it real—about who he is and who he is not. Who Jesus is and what his coming brings to our world. What distracts and what is really true from a spiritual point of view. This is never easy. During this season we wander somewhere between high hopes and deep dread...longing for connection and profound loneliness...generosity of spirit and poverty of soul. We kill ourselves to keep up with what the season requires while dying on the inside.

Especially as we get further and further into the Christmas season, we have trouble discerning the spiritual meaning of things. True enlightenment is just beyond our reach.

The practice of observing Advent reminds us that in a culture full of clutter and distraction, we seek to make room for what is essential. In a season frantic with consumerism and superficial sentiments, we are committed to creating space for what is real. In hearts driven to distraction by a multitude of cares and concerns, we do whatever it takes to “prepare the way” for some sort of meaningful connection with Christ.

In the wilderness of spiritual emptiness that often characterizes this season, we join John the Baptist in “keepin' it real” by proclaiming our faith in what is true.

Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss— This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, That whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction — This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly...

To read this article in its entirety, follow this link:

<http://www.transformingcenter.org/2011/12/advent-3-keepin%e2%80%99-it-real/>

In this week's issue...

Church Life	1
Worship Celebration	2
Announcements	3
Getting to Know Our Family & Friends	4
The Last Word	5

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

**December 10, 2011
11:00 A.M.**

**“Angels From the Realms of Glory”
“Now is the Time to Worship”**

Welcome
Bud Dickerson

Children’s Story
Bob Gilbert

Offering

Advent Reading
Donaghy Family
“O Come, O Come, Immanuel”

**“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”
“We Fall Down”**

Prayer
Patricia Ford

Scripture
Matthew 11:28–30
Mike Ford

“Silver Bells”
Bob Gilbert

“Peace of Baggage”
Pastor Cal

Benediction
Jody Liu

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
ABC Holiday Open House – 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
Community Services Distribution Hours 11:00 a.m.
Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
Jam Session 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Program Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

SABBATH, DECEMBER 17
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Angel Tree Distribution and Reception – Maroa Rooms 3:00 p.m.
The GROUP – Sanctuary & Maroa Rooms 5:00 p.m.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

December 17 — Pastor Ray
December 24 — Pastor Ray
December 31 — Pastor Cal

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

December Church Needs	\$28,000.00
Church Needs Donations	5,280.70
Over (Short)	(22,719.30)
Year to Date	\$336,000.00
Donations Received	257,870.60
Over (Short)	(78,129.40)
Youth Pastor Fund	\$18,522.38

This Week’s Offering
Inner Cities Ministries

YOUTH NEWS

**Vespers — this Friday, Dec. 9
at Clayton Liu’s house**

**COME JOIN THE FUN AT OUR
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT THE JOHNSONS’ HOME**

Sunset

This Friday
4:43p.m.

Next Friday
4:44p.m.



HEALTHY BYTES



Figs are not one of the first thought of fruits, but they should be. Figs are an excellent source of potassium and fiber. Figs also contain the much needed B6 vitamin which is responsible for producing serotonin. Serotonin is the body’s natural mood-booster and responsible for how relaxed we feel. Incorporating foods rich in vitamin B6 can help alleviate mild anxiety and boost serotonin production.

For more info on healthy solutions and recipes, contact Gale Bolinger at 974-2459 or email at gale4health@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ALL ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE BY DECEMBER 17

We only have a few more angels on the tree! We need to get them all back by December 17. If you have not brought in your wrapped gifts or you'd still like to purchase a gift, this is your last opportunity. Don't forget to attach the angel to the outside of the wrapped gift and each gift should not exceed \$25. Please include a gift receipt, if possible. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

CONTINUING THE SPIRIT OF SUNNYSIDE



Part of the Sunnyside mission is to be a welcoming and nurturing church. We have openings for greeters, connection team and small groups. Please prayerfully consider if one of these positions of service is for you. If you are interested, please contact Bill Hartman at 799-0511 or williamrhartman1@gmail.com.

ABC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



You are invited to a Holiday Open House & Sale, **this Sunday, 10:00–4:00** at the Adventist Book Center, 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis. The first 100 customers get a FREE Worthington foods Dinner Roast Entrée. We'll have our Truckload Food Sale: buy 3 cases of Worthington or Loma Linda canned items and get \$20 off the 4th case. Drawings and great deals on a whole lot more!

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ON HOLIDAY BREAK

This is the time of year when we get to spend quality time with our families, so we've cancelled our Sabbath lunch for December and our Tuesday afternoon meeting in January. Our next gathering will be **January 21** for Sabbath lunch. Please talk with Lola Arteaga (323-6682) or Lena White (434-0772), if you have any questions.



EARL MYERS IN CONCERT

*Annual "Music for the
Holiday Season"*
this Sabbath at 4p.m.
at Westside SDA
Church (2750 Martin
Luther King Blvd.)
Arrive early for a good
seat. Admission is free
to all!

BULLETIN

INFORMATION

Please submit your announcements of 50 words or fewer (in paragraph form) to: bulletinstaff@sunnysidesda.org. All info is due by 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. Bulletin staff reserves the right to edit text.

Make sure to save Sunday January 8, 2012 on your calendar! CCC's Annual GLOW rally is just around the corner and will be held at the Fresno Central Seventh day Adventist church. The speakers include Ivor Myers, Ron Goss from "Project Restore Magazine," Youngmin Kim (GLOW's European coordinator from Germany) and others. There will also be a Spanish seminar with translation and childcare. Be sure to register for this free event online at gloglow.org. Lets keep pushing the Kingdom forward, one page at a time!

BECAUSE YOU SHARED...

Thank you for using your S.H.A.R.E.S. Card at Save Mart or Food Maxx. Because of your support Sunnyside Church just received a \$400 check for our building program. Over \$2,500 has been raised since we joined the program a couple of years ago. Pick up your free S.H.A.R.E.S. Card in the church foyer or contact Todd Bristol for more information at tlbristol@hotmail.com.



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

Desiree & Bob Lutz



Fran & Bill Moseley

THE LAST WORD

Lessons from Winston by John Ortberg

More than a decade ago, I brought our kids home from camp, and Nancy was sitting in the front yard with a tiny Yorkshire terrier puppy.

We did not have a good pet track record. I will say no more on this front. I asked Nancy—"Did we actually agree that we were getting a dog?" "We must have," she said, "because there is a dog."

We called him Winston (after Churchill) because he was all attitude. He would bark at anything that approached the house, tho he would not have known what to do in hand-to-hand combat. He loved turning around in circles. He walked patrol.

Our kids loved it when we would hold him above a pool or any body of water – he would start swimming when he was still being held three feet up in the air.

For more than a decade he was there to send them off to school and greet them when they came home; to go for a walk when they were lonely, to console them when they were sad. He wasn't big or strong or even particularly bright. He was just ours. He died last night. He went in for ACL surgery, but did not respond well to the anesthesia.

So the last half day has been filled with remembering and laughing and crying over all that a dog means—unconditional affection; constant companionship, the light in the eyes of small children, the heart of a family. And three lessons from Winston:

- Real love can never be earned, only given.
- Gratitude is not an obligation but a privilege and a gift.
- God must be good beyond all imagining, to think up a world of animals that bring so much joy and delight and affection.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures...
These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.
When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.
When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to dust.
When you send your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever,
may the LORD rejoice in all his works...*from Psalm 104*

Church Address:
5375 North Maroa Avenue
Fresno, CA 93704

Phone: 559.229.5501
Fax: 559.229.5502
Email: churchoffice@sunnysidesda.org
Website: www.sunnysidesda.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Haley Biko (12/10)
Willie Brown Jr. (12/10)
Alesia Sheffield (12/12)
Rusty Bolinger (12/13)
Charles Lutz (12/13)
Todd Bristol (12/14)
Samantha Espinoza
(12/14)
Linda Jeffries (12/16)
Jordyn Pfalzgraff (12/16)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Gilbert & Lorraine Barr
(12/10)
Gerhard & Emilie vanWyk
(12/12)
Dan & Rene Nozaki (12/13)