

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

## CHURCH LIFE

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES

Renie Ward is scheduled for surgery on her shoulder tomorrow, December 16, in the afternoon. She has asked for special prayer during that time. *"I know God is in control and this will bring me relief."* - Renie

Some of you will remember Bruce O'Neil. He is a long-time member of Sunnyside. He was placed in hospice care at Sunnyside Convalescent. His daughter, Sherilyn Blanchet, wanted to share this with those in the church who knew him and may want to visit him. She stated that he has good and bad days but is always responsive to visitors. Please pray for Bruce's comfort as he spends the remainder of his life in hospice care.

*"Huge thanks to everyone who has shown me God's love in so many ways these past few months! Through prayer, reassurance from my Survivor Sisters, warm soup and meals just when God knew we were trying to think of something to eat, and sharing your prayer requests with me so we could pray together with God to bless others! God had special blessings for me this Christmas Season.*

*Two Sabbaths ago I missed church because I was not feeling up to it. At the time I did not understand why. Daryl came home from church with a gift from Sugar. It was a breast cancer Survivors pin. I found out 2 days later I had an infection. He answers before we know to ask!*

*About 2 weeks ago I started to realize I was getting sick again. As in the beginning, God stepped in and reassured me by opening every door, and last Thursday Daryl, Lisa and I were back at the hospital for surgery. My surgeon told me I would be better immediately after the surgery. When Daryl first saw me in recovery, his first words were 'You look better already.' The next morning I got an email from Sherry saying she and Richard had prayed for me by name Thursday morning not knowing why. This was not the only instance of just such miracles.*

*My recovery has been nothing less than amazing. I was seeing the doctor today when I got a call from Angela for an update. I told Dr. Z I am 'much better' and he said 'You look better.' God has used my challenges to bless me tenfold!"* - Linda Slusher

### CHURCH PARKING LOT SAFETY

Last Sunday a member of the Presbyterian congregation had their car broken into during their worship service. The thief saw a bag sitting in the back seat and broke out the car window to steal it. We are advising everyone to remove all items from inside their cars during services. Unfortunately, this is the time of year when thieves prey on church parking lots because they know that people are not coming in and out — this gives them lots of time to search through the parked cars.

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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

December 17, 2011  
11:00 A.M.

**“Do You Hear What I Hear?”**

**“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”**

**Welcome**  
Pastor Dennis Ray

**Children’s Story**  
Vicki Kemp

**Offering**

**Advent Reading**  
Dina & Zaher Estassi  
**“O Come, O Come Immanuel”**

**“Little Drummer Boy”**  
**“Away in a Manger”**

**Prayer**  
Bruce Eckhart

**“Sleep, Holy Child”**  
Jim Robison

**Scripture: Luke 14:1–7**

**“Who Was This Guy? - Part 3: Dignity”**  
Pastor Ray

**Benediction**

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
Youth Christmas Party – Johnson home 4:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
Community Services Distribution Hours 11:00 a.m.  
Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
Christmas Program Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

**SABBATH, DECEMBER 24**  
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
The GROUP – Sanctuary & Maroa Rooms 5:00 p.m.

### PREACHING SCHEDULE

**December 24** — Pastor Ray  
**December 31** — Pastor Cal  
**January 7** — Pastor Ray

### MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

<b>December Church Needs</b>	\$28,000.00
Church Needs Donations	15,438.07
Over (Short)	(12,561.93)
<b>Year to Date</b>	\$336,000.00
Donations Received	268,027.97
Over (Short)	(67,972.03)
Youth Pastor Fund	\$18,644.74

This Week’s Offering  
**Local Church Budget**

### YOUTH NEWS



We’re playing the “white elephant exchange” game so use your imagination when buying your gift!

### Sunset

This Friday  
4:44p.m.

Next Friday  
4:47p.m.

**COME JOIN THE FUN AT OUR  
YOUTH CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18  
AT 4:00PM AT THE JOHNSONS’ HOME**

### HEALTHY BYTES



Ginger has long been known as the go-to vegetable for easing nausea and queasiness, but it is also an excellent anti-inflammatory. Compounds found within ginger block prostaglandins which cause arthritic and migraine pain. Ginger can be used in cooking, drunk as a tea or added in fresh juice. Its sweet, spicy and pungent flavor not only enhances food dishes, but your health as well.

For more info on healthy solutions and recipes, contact Gale Bolinger at 974-2459 or email at [gale4health@comcast.net](mailto:gale4health@comcast.net)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### ALL ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE THIS SABBATH

Please return your wrapped gifts by this Sabbath. We are having a reception for the families to pick up their gifts at 3:00 Sabbath afternoon. 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](mailto:williamrhartman1@gmail.com).

### ANOTHER CHILDREN'S STORY \$5 BILL CHALLENGE



One of our church members has agreed to match every five dollar bill given during the Children's Story time — **this Sabbath.**

This member would like for you to join in by handing children "fives".

As you may know, our Children's Story offering is for our church building fund. Funds will be used for the completion of our church facility and this member has committed their donation to the finishing of the kitchen.

### 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.



### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION PARTY



The Sunnyside Social Committee wants to help you start the New Year off right with a "Reinforce Your Resolutions" gathering. What are YOUR resolutions? to eat healthier? to exercise more? spend more time with family? have worship more often? We want to help. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for a fun family evening with your church family - in the Maroa Room & outdoor patio on Saturday evening, **January 14, 2012 from 5:30 - 9:00.** Check your bulletin after Christmas for more details on this event.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving this written acknowledgment.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### HOLIDAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Community Services will have their month food distribution on Wednesday, December 21. Last month we served over 300 people. If you are in need or know of someone in need of food, please contact Printess Schlist (232-1194). Hours of distribution will be 11:am to 1:00pm. Anyone in need is welcome.



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

**Dave & Elga Boccardo**



**Domingo & Marianne Cruz**

## THE LAST WORD

### *Christmas Grace*

by Mary Z. Smith  
(from [www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com))

Snow continued its determined onslaught outside the assisted living facility windows. By late evening, I grew anxious about how the roads would be when I headed home. It was the week before Christmas. I should have been on my way home by now. The evening receptionist who was scheduled to relieve me had phoned to say she'd been unable to get her car started. Why was I the unlucky one stuck behind a receptionist's desk when I should have been home sipping hot cocoa and decorating the Christmas tree?

The telephone shrilled. Answering a little grouchily, I heard a man's voice. "Is this Avis rental car?" I tried to remain calm. "No, I'm afraid our phone number here at the assisted living facility is one digit different than Avis. Let me give you that number so you don't have to look it up again." Sighing, I quickly glanced at the familiar number of the car rental company on the pad of paper in front of me. I finished giving the gentleman the number, wishing him a Merry Christmas. Just as I was about to hang up, I heard his voice in midair. "Wait a minute please!" "Yes?" "I know this must sound insane, but I have to ask: do you believe in miracles?" I sat straighter in my chair, startled at such a question from a total stranger. "Definitely; why do you ask?"

"I'll try to make a long story short. My parents recently passed away in a car accident. I have no one left in the world but a grandmother somewhere in Virginia who I haven't seen since I was little. An uncle placed my grandmother in an assisted living facility when he grew too ill to care for her any longer. He's gone on as well. I have to ask -- do you happen to have a Grace Shepherd at your facility?"

My heart beat faster as I recognized the familiar name. I pictured the gentleman holding his breath on the other end while I listened to the pinging sound of the icy precipitation pelting the window to my right. "Are you still there?" he asked finally. "Yes, I'm here. I wish I could give you the information you're after. I'm afraid there's a privacy policy that prohibits me from answering. The director of the facility will be in her office on Monday morning, however." "I understand your responsibility in protecting the residents." The young man sounded so sad. "Thank you for your time, and Merry Christmas!" "Wait!" "Yes?" "Virginia is a beautiful state to visit at Christmas time! Let me give you our address in case you happen to be traveling through our area any time soon!" "Bless you!"

Christmas Eve I arrived at work earlier than usual. Christmas lights twinkled on the decorated trees up and down the hallways. Carols drifted from beneath a resident's closed door as I delivered the morning papers. I was passing Grace Shepherd's room when I suddenly froze in place. Grace sat in her usual rocking chair, her Bible open in her lap. Seated on the stool directly in front of her was a handsome young man with curly dark hair. His hand gently clasped Grace's as she read *The Christmas Story*.

Suddenly Grace spotted me. "Paul, here's the woman who helped you find me! Mary, please come and meet my grandson, Paul!" I hurried inside as tears clouded my vision. The young man slowly rose to his feet, taking my hands in his. "How can I ever thank you for leading me to my grandmother?" Shaking my head, I attempted to talk around the enormous lump in my throat. "We both know it was a Christmas miracle!" "Yes it was... Merry Christmas!" "Merry Christmas, Paul. Merry Christmas, Grace!"

Making my way back to the reception area, I sent a silent prayer heavenward. "Father, now I know why I was meant to stay late the other night. Thank You for the miracle of Christmas and for Your abiding grace.... Paul's Grace too!" I couldn't help smiling. It was going to be a glorious Christmas!

**Church Address:**  
5375 North Maroa Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93704

Phone: 559.229.5501  
Fax: 559.229.5502

Email: [churchoffice@sunnysidesda.org](mailto:churchoffice@sunnysidesda.org)  
Website: [www.sunnysidesda.org](http://www.sunnysidesda.org)

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Ernie Barreto (12/17)  
Bill Hawkins (12/17)  
Jody Liu (12/17)  
Susan Espinosa-Manning  
(12/18)  
Gordon Shumate (12/18)  
Linda Barron (12/19)  
David Castillo (12/19)  
Eric Colombini (12/20)  
Reed Johnson (12/21)  
Angela McCall (12/21)  
Dennis Ray (12/21)  
Brittany McCann (12/22)  
Elisa Torres-Messing (12/22)  
Amy Fox (12/23)

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Garry & Susan Clark (12/17)  
Jim & Jean Robison (12/19)  
Bruce & Karen Eckhart  
(12/19)  
Bill & Sharon Barreto (12/20)