



June 2002

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
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Visit us on the Web!

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Genesis

In the Beginning

During June, the Old Testament lectionary readings focus on the book of Genesis. On May 26th, the first Sunday after Pentecost, we began with Genesis 1:1-2:4a (“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . .”).

The word Genesis means “beginnings.” The book of Genesis is about many beginnings—the beginning of the universe, the beginning of man and woman, the beginning of human sin, the beginning of God’s promises and plans for salvation, and the beginning of a special relationship between Abraham and God.

Genesis is the first book in what is called the Pentateuch—a word that means five books and includes the first five books of the Bible. These books are also known as the books of the law because they contain God’s instructions and

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Rev. Lee Hayward Preaching

June 2nd Sunday Celebration

Our former pastor and long-time friend, Rev. Lee Hayward, will lead worship and offer communion on Sunday, June 3rd. Lee is always an engaging speaker who refreshes both heart and mind of his hearers. Bring a friend and come share in a special service.

Children’s Choir

June 9th Sunday Celebration

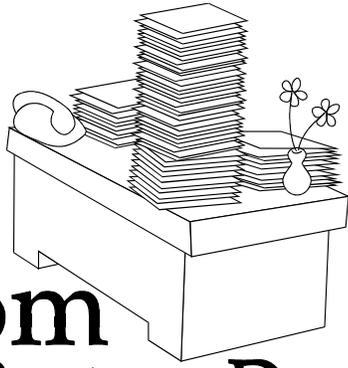


The primary grades Sunday School class will sing for our worship service on Sunday, June 9th. The children, under the leadership of Gwen Freeman, have been enthusiastically practicing several songs. They are looking forward to sharing their talents with the larger church.

Annual Conference

June 12th-16th

Pastor Adrionne Beasley, Lay Member Guy Haas, and Young Adult Member Sarah Chow will be attending the California-Nevada Annual Conference from June 12th through 14th. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they wrestle with the legislative tasks of the Conference and interact with the greater church. Conference is a mind-boggling combination of budget tasks, program and mission decisions, endless committee reports, wrangling over legislation, joyful worship, receptions and dinners, and a whole lot of networking.



From the Pastors Desk

This is a period of uncertainty for us at Sunnyhills. But, what's new? It has been a year of uncertainty. We are at the end of the conference year when pastors are assigned, reassigned, or moved, yet we have had no word from the District of its intentions for Sunnyhills. I don't know if I will be reassigned to this church or, if not, who will come. I know the church has suffered from the turnover of pastors. Yet your hard work and dedication as a

congregation has kept the church alive. Continue to stick together; continue to do the work of the church, but most of all, remember you are a body of Christ and Christ must always be the focus.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness and all else will be given to you."

This is the promise that each of us must hold tight at times of uncertainty. Continue to explore yourselves, digging deep for God inside. Avoid letting the demons of pride or even despair and victimization take hold. The first task of the church that separates it from our secular tasks is prayer and worship of God. If the resources are only sufficient to allow one task, God is the best bet. God can take tiny resources, even as tiny as five fish and two loaves of bread, and spread them out amongst the multitude and have some left over. God can make a way out of no way. But, we've got to believe it. Believing it is not just saying it; believing it means trusting in God enough to say it and act on it.

Since I have been at Sunnyhills, I have been convinced that our first task is to work at our own worship practices, to concentrate on developing our prayer discipline, to dig deep into God's word and allow ourselves to experience the breath of the Holy Spirit with us, and in us when we are alone and surely when we are together in worship.

Churches can engage in many useful activities and causes that support needs, our communities, and our country, and nothing is better when the church is following its call. But, we must be careful not to judge ourselves by another church's call. We mustn't get caught up in visions of grandeur. God is calling us to sit at the feet of Christ and learn from the master teacher and to become disciples. God is calling us to kneel at the foot of the cross and create community and family there. God is calling us to meet Christ at the well and to drink the living water, then spread the word of our salvation.

This may not seem big enough for some of us who want to go down in history as drum majors. This may not be enough for some of us who want to make a mark and be remembered. This may not be enough to win a special

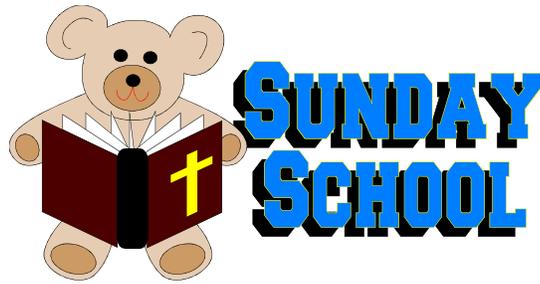
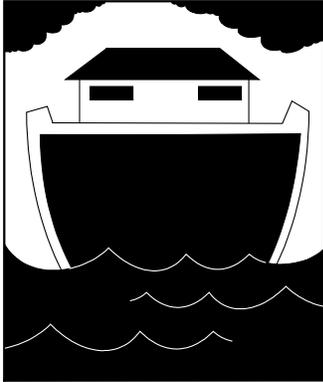
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Genesis

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laws for the people of Israel.

Genesis contains many stories important to the early Hebrews. Scholars believe that some parts of Genesis may be as much as 4000 years old. After being told and retold for many generations, these tales and histories were finally written down by people far removed from their original context. Even later, various collections were interwoven and edited together into the book we study today.



Sunday School Ends June 23rd Is Last Day

Sunday School will end for the school year after class on June 23rd. Plans are afoot to offer at least a partial summer program, but plans have not yet been finalized. Meanwhile, the children are working hard to memorize the names of all the books of the Bible in order (adults—how many can you recite?), though the students won't be done learning the list until next winter. They are also studying Bible stories and characters from many different eras.

This year the Primary Class has collected an offering each week to help solve hunger. Next fall the class will visit the Heifer Project International farm near Ceres, California, and learn more about the project they have been supporting.

From the Pastor

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recognition award. But, trust in the Lord. Seek the kingdom first and its righteousness and watch the sea part, watch the water turn into wine, watch the demons scamper. It will be the experience of a lifetime. We are being offered the greatest honor in life; we have been invited to God's table to witness and experience God's true grace.

I hope we all can appreciate the blessing that is being offered us, this little church nestled in the north end of Milpitas away from the bustling noise of the city, where birds can be heard and butterflies hover and a giant cross marks the spot chosen by God. Do you accept the invitation?

*God's blessing to each of you,
Adrienne Beasley, Pastor*