



The Communicator Summer Season 2011

Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale

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Thoughts from the Pastor's Study

by Pastor Gen Heywood

While traveling through Samaria (John 4:5-15), Jesus sat by a well, tired and thirsty. A Samaritan woman came and he spoke to her. He asked her for water. In the desert, this is life saving water.

Understandably startled, being that she has been spoken to by a man and by a Jew both of which culture forbid, she asks him how it is that he asks her to give him water.

“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water

that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’” (John 4:10-15)

At the time and place of Jesus, living with thirst was part of the every day experience. To speak of life with this God revealed in Jesus, was to speak of one who could fill the thirsts and hungers of our souls like no other.

But the woman still wanted water. It was lovely for the Holy Man to speak in grand metaphors. She would still have to walk to the well, draw water for her family, and carry the heavy jug back, again and again. It is as if she is saying, get real whoever you are, life has its demands and your fancy spiritual talk will not change that.

Then Jesus, without judgment, tells her simply that he knows about her life. And he, a man and a Jew, still asks her for water. She recognizes that this experience is holy. She suspects he is sent by God. She goes back to town and gives a message to the people of her town.

Firstly, she gives an invitation, “Come and see.” I was visiting with a woman this week

who thought churches were all about rules and judgment. She had never experienced a church about covenant and relationship. "Come and see."

Secondly, she witnesses to the others about Jesus, "He told me everything about myself." When we read the Gospels, we hear the story of experiences of God had by others. These stories tell us about a living, compassionate God revealed in Jesus who knows us as we truly are and loves us into becoming what we can be.

Thirdly, she asks "Could this be the Messiah?" She doesn't tell her friends how they must accept Jesus, she lets them come and find out for themselves.

During the summer, we decorate our sanctuary with a water theme. It is a reminder for us to bring back water from wherever we travel so that we can mix these all together, boil and filter the water, and make it part of our baptismal waters. Like the water, we come from many places, have many experiences, and are one with each other in our life with God and this community.

This Summer, may that water also remind us of the Samaritan woman. We, too, invite others to worship with us, invite them to come and see one who has brought refreshing experiences to our souls, and it just might be this is the one they have been looking for as well.

With blessings,
Pastor Gen



**Join Pastor Gen in prayer
for our church
Tuesday mornings 9:00-9:30 a.m.**
Take a few minutes for prayer wherever you are
to seek special guidance for our church.

PLEASE NOTE:

**During July, Pastor Gen will be away
on vacation and church camp.**

**Worship Services to be lead on July 3 by Ina,
and on July 10, 17, 24 and 31 by Rev. Win Gould**

**Sneak Peak on the Sundays with Rev. Win -
Stories in lieu of Sermons:**

Sunday, July 10, 2011 Simple Faith

Scripture: Isaiah 55:10-13, Matthew 6:25-33

Story: "Truman Cerulean"

The story is about how simple gestures by a simple man affect a community and a church. This was the first of several stories I have written for Easter. It was inspired in part by the tradition in many churches of transforming a cross symbolizing the crucifixion into an Easter cross filled with flowers.

Sunday, July 17, 2011 Reconciliation and Blessing

Scripture: Matthew 2:19-23, Matthew 13:54-58

Story: "A Visit Home"

A fictional account, this story is about an unannounced visit home to Nazareth by Jesus to see his mother. The first time I shared the story was at a clergy and spouse retreat in Southern California.

Sunday, July 24, 2011 Dealing with Loss

Scripture: Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:27-33, Luke 8:40-42a, 49-56

Story: "Heart of a Butterfly"

Originally, this story was a play I wrote while serving the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley UCC. Each year for several years I created a drama experience for the older children in Vacation Bible School to perform. In this story a girl is coming to grips with her grief over the loss of her mother.

Sunday, July 31, 2011 Christmas in July

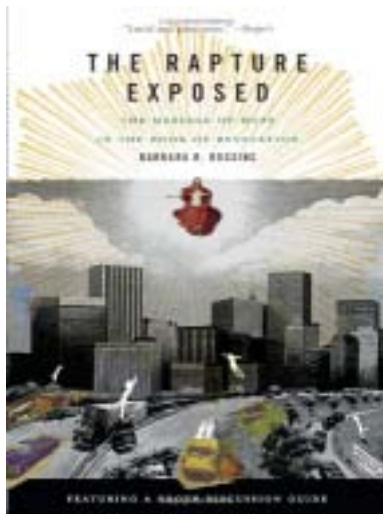
(Focusing on the birth of Jesus in a different liturgical season)

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Story: "Safe in the Shepherd's Fold"

This and others of my Christmas stories were written to be used in lieu of the sermon on the Sunday after Christmas. "Safe in the Shepherd's Fold" is a fictionalized account of Jesus' birth influenced by period research.

The Rapture Exposed:
A Twelve Week Book Study
Wednesdays
Aug. 17 - Nov. 2, 2011
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.



In her most recent book, **The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation** (Westview Press, 2004), Barbara R. Rossing, an associate professor at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, challenges the violent interpretation of the book of Revelation as it is presented in Tim LaHaye's widely popular Left Behind series, and all it presumes to communicate about the future of the world, by offering a positive interpretation of Revelation in which the world is not "left behind."

"I was on 60 Minutes with Tim LaHaye," Rossing tells John Whitehead in this exclusive OldSpeak interview. "He said that liberals have created this loving, wimpy Jesus and that we need the judgmental, warrior Jesus. The big question now is what is the true image of Jesus? A loving Jesus is not wimpy. A loving Jesus is precisely who Jesus is, and that is how he is portrayed in the Gospels."

(An excerpt from "God So Loved the World that He Gave Us World War III" by John W. Whitehead)



Vacation Bring Backs

While away this summer, please bring back water from wherever you wander. We will collect these on September 11 at our Re-covenanting Sunday.

Also, please, bring back an experience of another church and answer the following:

Type of church (UCC, Catholic, Baptist, etc.): _____

Town, state/country of church: _____

The thing you like best: _____

How would we add this to our church: _____

Thing you liked least and why: _____

You can email your findings to the office or simply write a note. On Re-covenanting Sunday, we will post our findings and share our experiences!

With blessings,

Pastor Gen



Join Us!

**INTERGENERATIONAL
 DRUMMING CHOIR**



Drumming Choir rehearses each Sunday at 10:10 a.m. with Worship at 10:30 a.m. - and we welcome all to join us at 10:10 a.m.

LOOKING BACK...

Spring Tea, May 22
"Taking Tea with Alice"



**Outstanding Decorations,
Excellent Food,
Wonderful Company,
Great Fun,
... and \$1605 raised to benefit
Sunnyvale Community Services
and Katrina Victims!!**

Labyrinth Work Party, June 8



Pentecost June 12, with Musician Recognition



Decorating for Summer



What if there isn't anymore?

From an e-mail forwarded by Betsy Shoup

One day a woman's husband died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of their bedroom, the wife was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't "anymore".

No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute."

Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away, never to return before we can say good-bye, say "I love you."

So while we have it, it's best we love it, care for it, fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick.

This is true for marriage... And old cars... And children with bad report cards, and dogs with bad hips, and aging parents and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep -- like a best friend who moved away or a sister-in-law after divorce. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what.

Life is important, like people we know who are special. And so, we keep them close!

I received this from someone who thought I was a 'keeper'! Then I sent it to the people I think of in the same way... Now it's your turn to send this to all those people who are "keepers" in your life. Suppose one morning you never wake up, do all your friends know you love them?

Let every one of your friends know you love them. Even if you think they don't love you back. And just in case, I'm gone tomorrow:

I love ya!!!!!!

Live today because tomorrow is not promised.



Recipe Corner

This Time:

From Lee Lederer's Kitchen

- Chinese Chicken Salad -

As Served by Mei Wang in Shephard Hall on Pentecost Sunday

- 2 packages of Roman chicken flavored noodles crushed in the bag before toasted in butter
- 2 packages slivered almonds (use peanuts or walnuts), browned in butter
- 2 chicken breasts (cooked in seasoned water and shredded)
- 1 head of cabbage, shredded
- 6 green onions, chopped
- cilantro, chopped

Add dressing just before serving.

Dressing

- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar
- 1 T soy sauce
- 1 T sesame oil or peanut oil

Put in a jar and shake well.



Sunnyvale FISH, our Food and Clothes Closet, at this time especially asks for donations of

- **peanut butter**
- **cereals** (please, regular -not Costco size- boxes)
- **tooth paste**
- **or money**

THANK YOU!

June 19 after Worship
Father's Day Lunch
'Route 66'



Waitresses,
please dress in Route 66 Diner fashion:
blue jeans, white T-Shirts, bobby-socks and
sneakers!



Latest News:

In their meeting on June 15,
our Women's Fellowship decided to donate
\$1000 to Sunnyvale Community Services,
\$1000 to Katrina Victims and
\$1000 to our Pastor's Fund!

Thank you!



At our Annual Meeting the church learned
that **fred Hill** has passed on from this life
into the next.
Pastor Gen wrote an entry in the online guest
book: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/mercurynews/guestbook.aspx?n=fred-hill&pid=151362628&cid=full>



Looking Ahead

- Please Mark Your Calendars!



Saturday, September 3: Fishing Day



**Saturday+Sunday, September 10+11:
Church Camp Out here on grounds
and Re-covenanting Sunday**



**Sunday, September 18:
Middle School kids help at FISH**



Church Day at Lodi, October 1
*Find more information for all conference
news online at www.ncnuc.org.
Or, if you would like help registering or
have questions, ask Pastor Gen or Ina.
Also, limited funds are available to help
with travel expenses.*

Communicator Deadline

Deadline for the Fall edition of our Communicator is Friday,
August 19, 2011.

We accept submissions of texts, photos & graphics at our
office, 1112 S. Bernardo Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 or via e-
mail (conglchurch@earthlink.net).

Phone: (408) 739-3285

Office Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Gabriel's Trumpet



10:30 AM for Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School
Children's Sunday School begins after "Children's Time" with the Pastor
11:30 AM - Fellowship (approximate time)

June - August 2011 Calendar

Worship & Fellowship

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
(nursery & childcare provided)

Adult Bible Study: on summer hiatus

Choir Rehearsal: on summer hiatus

Drum Choir, Sundays at 10:10 AM (possibly on summer hiatus)

Sunday, June 19

Trinity Sunday

Father's Day Lunch "Route 66"

Sunday, August 14

**Foothills Congregational UCC (Los Altos)
visits with us to worship together**

Monday, June 27

6:30 PM Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 17

6:30 PM Start of Book Study on Revelation

Sunday, July 3

Rev. Ina Bork leading worship service

Sundays, July 10, 17, 24 and 31:

Rev. Win Gould leading worship services

Other Meetings & Activities TBD