



Begin...restart...continue...your faith journey with Bethel
14235 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA
Office: (510) 357-4130 Fax: (510) 357-4123
www.bethelcpc.org

Scripture:
Genesis 20

June/July
2008

Thoughts by Pastor Sarah

Pastor's Thoughts - From One Generation to the Next

We shall not bow down to them or worship them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generations of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.”
(Genesis 20:5-6)

This passage points out two things I don't believe in. 1) God is not jealous! And 2) God does not punish the children of parents who sin. However, previous generations do leave messes for future generations to clean up. When the men who wrote this passage, they wrote it with their understanding of who God is and what God does. What I believe is a God of love who loves us no matter what and that God's love is steadfast to all God's children.

I bring up this scripture because I recently attended a consultation that focused on first and second generations. I am a second generation Filipina American. I was invited because I am a second generation Filipina pastor working in a non-Filipino congregation which makes my context different than many second generation colleagues in ministry.

One of the concerns shared by the younger second generation folks was that they do not understand the first generation. The first generation in most of the contexts shared were silent about their past. For example: Many first generation immigrants work long hours and often a few jobs to support their families and make life “better” for their children. However, hearing the voices of the children now adults, they would have preferred more communication. For the first generation working the long hours and many jobs was an expression of love, but the second generation would have liked to have been shown or told they were loved. Sounds all too complicated!!! But very simply put: With each generation, there is a need to communicate where they've been in order to understand the present. For the Japanese American parents who cannot share what it was like to be put in an internment camp by their country, they struggle to make their kids more “American” for fear of their reliving the past. For the Korean parent who has escaped from North Korea, the stories are hidden and the pain of the journey is not shared with the children. Once the stories are shared, the

(continued on page 3)

Keep in Your Prayers

For Health

Barbara Barkley, Jack Eade, Rich Newsom, Carol Taylor, Abner Walton, Jane Potter, Geri & George Kirkwood, Winnie and Fred Moser, Bernie Clark, Anna Urish and sister Frances, Martin Halvorsen, , Eve O'Young, Jack Stone, Helen Tilseth, Phil Smothermon, Jason the Moser's grandson, Vi Hooker , Roger's grandson Zachery and brother Gary, Lori McPherson's mother, Paul Nuno's sister, Georg in Evergreen, and families in transition.

In the service

Jensen deNijs, Roger's son Warren, and Karin's nephew Kyle

Those not able to worship with us: Willow Omick, Bernie Clark, Vi Hooker, Ed George, Rebecca and Gudi Engilbertsson Joyce & Martin Halvorsen, Alice Breedveld, , & Lori McPherson.

Pastor Barbara had a tumor behind her ear removed. She will get the results the week of June 9th.



COFFEE HOUR ROTATION—2008

June 8 Karin & Kathie
June 15 Jan & Paul
June 22 Dora & Abner
June 29 Nikii & Ken
July 6 Jane, Anna, & Dina
July 13 Jonelle & Noel
July 20 Bring Fruit
July 27 Charlene & Amy
Aug 3 Donna & Rose

• * * * * *

**-Last one out of the church –
turn off the lights and lock doors**

Any questions – Check with Karin

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU
FROM JACK EADE**

I spoke to Jack today and he sounded really good. He wanted to convey a message to the members and friends at Bethel. He said when he was in the hospital, he had time to think about all the wonderful people at Bethel and feels that we have a very special congregation. He felt like he was on the receiving end of many prayers and thoughts, and it was a great comfort as he recuperates from his surgery. He emphasized that we have a very special, loving congregation and he appreciates everyone's prayers and thoughts. They hope to be able to return to church on June 15th. We hope they make it.

Bethel's Vision Statement

We are a Community of Faith
Filled with joyful and loving
servants of Jesus Christ



We are a Community of Faith that reflects
different generations, lifestyles, cultures,
ethnicities,
abilities and faith journeys.



We are a Community of Faith called by God to
Feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, serve the
poor and heal the sick.



We are a Community whose faith in Jesus Christ
brings us hope, peace, joy and eternal life.



We are a Community of Faith that
celebrates every occasion with thankfulness
for God's gifts in new and changing ways.



We are a Community of Faith that
accompanies the stranger and each other
when facing challenges and disappointments.***
We are a Community of Faith that God uses to
transform the lives
of others and ourselves everyday.

**NO FAITH ENCOUNTERS DURING THE
SUMMER.**

In *Sojourners Magazine*, June 2008, Jim Wallis writes that there is evidence to believe that we are entering a “post-Religious Right America” is the shifting political agenda and theological emphasis of a new generation of twentysomething evangelicals.” Many of the articles detail his conclusion.



Pastor Sarah's Thoughts (continued from page 1)

the second generation begins to understand who their parents are. At the consultation, the stories were compelling and the need for intentional intergenerational communication is required in order for future generations to have a grasp of their identity.

In Poland generation miscommunication is taking place right now. According to an article in *The Week*, June 6, 2008, "Poland's witch hunt against 'communist spies' must stop...Under communist rule, many people were blackmailed into collaborating with the secret police, a large number of them gave them misleading information or signed 'loyalty declarations' simply to get them off their backs. But in recent years, often from a younger generation, blind to the compromises forced on older Poles, has pursued an unrelenting crusade against anyone named as a collaborator..." The story goes on to say that this group has even "fingering" Lech Walesa, the founder of the anti-communist movement, Solidarity!! This for me is the classic case of the previous generous generation not sharing the fear and the environment in which they lived in earlier times. Maybe this type of communication may have prevented the "witch hunts."

So what do I regret that my first generation parents didn't share with me? I wish that they had continued speaking to me in their home language so that I would be bi-lingual today. Why did they stop? Because well meaning English speaking neighbors said that if they didn't start speaking English to their children we would fail in school. And in the Filipino/Asian culture "fail" is truly an obscene four-letter word! I wish that my parents had told me more stories of the Philippines instead of pushing us to be so American that my Filipino heritage was viewed as "less than" by my parents. I did get glimpses of their life if I listened well. For my Mom, when shopping for groceries, would say,

"I miss the bananas that you could pick off the tree." Or my Dad after a drink or two would talk about serenading young women in the city. But they weren't conversations, and if pressed for more information they would stop talking. I wish I knew more about my grandparents. They were all dead by the time my parents immigrated here. They are both gone now, and at the age of 59 I still have questions, but it is too late.

What I can share with you is that I am the product of both my mother and father but for this space I share my dad with you. My father Steve lied about his age and came to the United States at the age of 16. His sister was already in Stockton and she wanted him to come to go to school. My dad ended up working in the fields instead. After working in the fields and seeing so many old Filipino men come home from the fields with their bodies in pain from bending over and lifting crates, he decided that he needed to find another occupation. He became a "house boy" in Hollywood and some of his bosses included "Laurel and Hardy." (or so he said!) He also learned to cook and bartend. As long as I had known him he worked everyday. During the day he worked as a warehouseman and in the evening as a bartender at a local golf and country club. He was a man of few words and he wanted his kids to be happy and successful. When my brother and I were teenagers, he made us work in the fields so that we will know what it would be like for us if we ever thought about quitting school. It worked for me!! He was a man of few words but by his presence I learned that it was okay for men to cry when their sad and women weren't responsible for cooking all the meals. My dad was an excellent cook!

One thing that I have learned is that because my parents immigrated here from the Philippines, they brought their culture, habits and ways of being with them and no matter how much they tried to make their children "all American" they instilled in us their Filipino culture by the way they raised us to invite everyone into the home as family, not to argue (continued on page 4)



Pastor Sarah's Thoughts (continue from page 3)

with "white people" (of course, that has changed a bit!) , kiss everyone good night . There are more more things I learned that I can't point out. But as I go through the day I often remember sayings from my mom and dad that make me laugh. My latest one was that my mom told me that the man that sits in the black and white car was my uncle. As a child, it was comforting to know that my uncle was everywhere!!!

I encourage you to find out the stories of your past so that your present and future can be made richer. Knowing the generations before you and their struggles can help you become equipped for the present and future. It is no different for the church.

The first generation of Bethel sixty years ago decided to start a church, a place for people to go to Sunday School and gather as a faith community. In the ensuing years, however, just wanting to be a church was not enough to keep it vibrant and alive in the changing culture it lived. We continue the journey of the faith community of Bethel, understanding that God is not done with this community of faith and that as long as we are faithful to God's call for justice, mercy, compassion, and love, future generations will continue to journey together as God calls them to this place we call Bethel.

Peace,
Sarah

A little story about Maeve

Maeve Cassidy is our 3 year old granddaughter who is in Pastor Barbara's children's choir. She and her sister Fiona love to sing. Maeve's latest song is song this way: "This is the day..this is the day that our God has Maeve." "Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Chuch Camp Weekend June 20-22 and beyond

The Bethel Community will go camping the weekend of June 20-22 at Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe. We potluck dinner and have a great time of fellowship around the campfire with our favorite coffee with additions and the smores are excellent. Contact Pastor Sarah reyesgibbs@gmail.com for more information.

If you want to come during the week of the 22nd, we also have a few campsites that can be shared that week, againcontact Pastor Sarah.

Faith Encounters - May 25@4PM - My Life in a Concentration Camp

On May 25@4PM, Fred "Fritz" Moser, a member of the Bethel Faith Community shared his experience of being a prisoner of war in Indonesia . His experiences have taught him compassion, care and the need to be with others in time of sickness and need. Here' is a bit from his written story.

"On June 10, 1941, I was drafted into the army...Dutch with pressure from the United States, declared war against Japan. Japanese came in the Pacific, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. We had all the military, the battleships, aircraft. The other countries didn't have that. In March of 1942 Japanese said if you don't surrender we are going to bomb all the big places. I was a prisoner for 3 ½ years."

BATTERY RECYCLING IN SAN LEANDRO

Earl Kehret has placed a five gallon bucket provided by the city in the church to collect alkaline, button, and rechargeable batteries marked Ni-MH, Ni-Cad, L-ion, and Pb. The State of California has banned household batteries and other hazardous products from disposal because they contain metals such as: mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel which contaminate the environment. Drop off your batteries here and get recharged.



**A THANK YOU FROM
THE REV. SUE ANN YARBROUGH**

Ordination has proven to be its own spiritual practice for it has left me with a deeper understanding of generosity. For the past few days I have been awash in some truly lovely gifts. Some of the gifts were wrapped in beautiful paper, bows, and baskets. Some gifts were written; others were spoken or sung; still more were given in a myriad of other ways. Each one I found to be profoundly generous and I continue to savor them. I am grateful to the Bethel Community for all the gifts that you have given me, not only for ordination, but over the past decade. Thank you. May you always be blessed with the willingness to give. It is a wonderful reminder of God's presence in the world.

The Avowal

*As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.*

Denise Levertov

Pastor Sarah and Pastor Barbara participated in Sue Ann's ordination service at the First Congregational Church of Alameda. Several members of Bethel attended to wish Sue Ann well.

A MESSAGE FROM BERNIE CLARK

Bernie sent a couple pages of clever stories about church. I've condensed a couple.

When Kelli said her bedtime prayers she would always end with bless "and all girls." When her mother asked why she said, "Because we always finish our prayers by saying 'All Men'!"

A Sunday School teacher was teaching her young class to quote the 23rd Psalm. She gave them a month to learn it. In spite of much practice Ricky just couldn't remember it so when it was his turn to recite it to the congregation, he said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Little Jason piped up and said "My Mommy looked back while she was driving and turned into a telephone pole!"

Bernie wrote "... just thought you might get a chuckle out of some of this craziness. Give my love to all at Bethel. I'm feeling fine and getting along OK. Thanks for the Bethel News. Wish I could drop by to see y'all. So til soon again – with Love in Christ to all. Bernie Clark

A LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE SHELTER

Building Futures has sent a card thanking us for continuing to provide meals to the San Leandro Shelter. Thanks to all our cooks and Don and Urik for delivering the meals.

The Rev. Dr. John Turpin, former pastor of Bethel was honored at the San Francisco Theological Seminary graduation as the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He received his B.D. from Princeton Seminary in 1952, and his D.Min. from SFTS in 1981. His first call was to Bethel in 1952, and he has been active in the Presbyterian Church every since in many different capacities.



My Treasure Chest By Pastor Barbara

There used to be an e-mail circulating asking people what stuff they had in the trunks of their cars - this was supposed to say a lot about who a person was, their life, their values, their day to day living as well as their priorities: the things they couldn't live or do without. I was thinking about this last night as I looked in my piano bench at church.

In my piano bench there are many of the usual things one might find there: pencils, a book on music direction, an attachable music light, a metronome, paper clips. But there are other things that are unique to my ministry at Bethel: there is a hymn I wrote for Bethel community that we frequently sing, there are high-lighter pens so people can mark their music when the music is difficult to follow, there is a package of throat lozenges, a package of cough drops, a package of vitamin C drops, and, most importantly, a store of chocolate of different kinds for those times of "chocolate attack" that any choir member (or myself) might encounter. There is a lovely card someone wrote to me once, and there is a plastic bag with some toy cars in it that any children who show up can play with while we practice.

It is "my" piano bench, while I work there, while I serve there. At the same time, it is a place "owned" really by my community. The choir knows all that is in there - and they know they are welcome to anything in there they need. It is stocked (especially with the chocolate and cough drops) by any member of the choir (or myself) who happens to notice that things are running low. Sometimes when I open it, I feel like I'm opening a valuable treasure chest, and am never completely sure what goodie will show up for the sharing. Other times it feels like a comfortable, familiar cupboard at home, where things we need are stored and ready for use.

Whatever else it is, it has become a sign of the

community of which I am a part, available and ready to answer small needs, and sometimes great needs; available and ready with tools, medicines and comforts; a good place, a warm place, a treasure chest.

FAITH, SCIENCE AND MUSIC - SUMMER CAMP – AUGUST 4-8, 2008

This article is in the Bethel website as follows:

Bethel will sponsor a "Faith, Science & Music" - "It is Good!" Camp from August 4-8, 2008. On Friday August 8, there will be our traditional camp out on the grounds!

The program will be from 10AM - 3PM with child care available at an additional cost from 8-9:30AM and 3-5:30PM. The cost for materials and registration will be \$75 per child plus any additional child care costs. Siblings will be \$50. After July 21, the cost will be \$100 per child and \$75 per siblings. Scholarships will be available.

The children will build their own solar systems, learn about nature by exploring the grounds for insects and other wildlife, and we will learn to celebrate how God has made each one of us unique and wonderful! The children will learn music through a musical that they will perform on Sunday August 10 at 10AM.

Bethel is a faith community that strives to follow the teachings of Jesus and practices God's unconditional love. We are a faith community that is open, inclusive and welcoming to the diverse community surrounding us. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** "It is Good!" will focus on God's creation, the environment, peace and compassion through faith stories, science projects and a musical production."

Tell your friends about this great experience for young people!

There will not be a July Bethel Newsletter. Have a good summer.

Bethel Community Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)
14235 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94578

Congregation – Ministers
Pastors
Rev. Sarah Reyes & Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley

Children's Church
Pastor Barbara & Bethel Community
Eva Cortez – Custodian

Dated Material

Return Service Requested

www.bethelcpc.org
Begin...restart...continue
your faith journey

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY MORNING 9:50 A.M.
JOIN US



BETHEL COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ...

Children's Choir after church til noon
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays
Children from 2-8 years old

June 8 - 4:00 Showers Choir Fest

June 20-22 Church Camp at Lake Tahoe

June 22 - General Assembly San Jose

Book Discussion Group
June 27@7PM "Eat, Pray & Love"

CHILDRENS MUSIC CAMP - August 4 - 8,
10AM - 3PM

DAILY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:50 A.M.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:20 A.M.

Mon, Tues. – English Classes at Primera

M-F 10 -2 – Senior Lunch Program

Wednesdays – Praise Team/Band Practice
Bible Study – Fireside Room

T,W,Th – 9:30-11:30 – Toddler Parenting Program
San Leandro Adult School

Thursdays - 7:00 Choir Practice

and God said,

“It is good!”

Faith , Science & Music Camp August 4 - 8, 2008

BETHEL
COMMUNITY
Presbyterian
Church

www.bethelcpc.org

510-357-4130
14235 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro 94578

Bethel Community is a faith community that is open, inclusive and welcoming to the diverse community of San Leandro. ALL ARE WELCOME!

“It is good!” will focus on God’s creation, the environment and peace through science projects, faith stories and a musical production.

Registration Form on back of this Flyer!



10AM - 3PM

Child Care Available at additional cost from 8-9:30 and 3:30-5:30 (\$1.50 per hour) after 5:30 (\$5 per half hour)

Registration/Materials Fee \$75 (Siblings \$50)

Registration Form on Back of this flyer. Deadline: July 21

After July 21 -

Registration \$100 (siblings \$75)

Grades K-5

Musical Performance

Sunday - August 10 @ 10AM

AM & PM Snacks Provided

What to bring?

*Lunch & Water Bottle

*Change of clothes for water play (depending on weather)

EXTRA ACTIVITY! Our traditional campout!

The children and their families are invited to camp out on the church lawn on Friday night August 8. We will have a “potluck” dinner at 6PM, Set up tents, roast marshmallows, make smores, and show movies on the outside wall. Children will be fed a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning and dismissed at 9AM. Children must be picked up at 9AM or there will be a \$5 fee for every 30 minutes until child is picked up.