

# The Friendly Visitor



**February 2011**

**United Methodist Church of Yucaipa**

**35177 Beech Ave., Yucaipa, CA**

**The Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas**

**Gathering 8:45 a.m. - Worship Service 9:00 a.m - Sunday school 10:30 a.m.**

**(909)-797-1143**

The sight of budding daffodils in our February gardens anticipates the coming of spring! Cold weather may manage to prevail for awhile, but its sting is lessened. Winter might be reluctant to withdraw and may yet send snow and pouring rain among the days of warm and welcome sunshine, but now there is the reminder that winter's darkness is almost over.

The other seasons of the year seem to merge seamlessly into each other; it is hard to spot the alteration of spring into summer or summer to autumn, autumn to winter. The contrast between winter and spring, however, is overwhelmingly obvious. The long dark evenings are banished as the hours of daylight increase. Bare branches burst into a green haze of foliage and the first flowers of the year emerge in glorious, bright, vibrant color to awaken the senses. The breezes are warmer, but still we see the sharp jags of snow on the mountaintops. We begin to feel an urge to be up and doing, to start new projects and to shake off the apathy of the old season. There is hope that the approaching summer will be warm; that the harvest will be fruitful; that the new life just emerging will grow strong and healthy. And, despite the cold harshness that can be present throughout life, there is hope that earthly darkness will be followed by an eternity of brightness and joy.

It is time to begin anticipating and planning for the holiest time in the Christian year, Lent and the glory of Easter. We are promised spiritual renewal and, most importantly, we are newly aware of Christ's gift of life after death.

Spring will come. Christ has come. And we are His. Hallelujah!



## From Pastor Sharon

*"This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather."*

-- Phil Connors, in *Groundhog Day*



**Spoiler Alert:** If you have never seen the movie *Groundhog Day*, this article may ruin some storyline surprises for you.  
Go rent or borrow the movie first, if you'd like, but then do come back to read!



*Groundhog Day* is one of my favorite movies. This is an opinion I share with millions of people around the world. It stars Bill Murray as weatherman, Phil Connors, and Andie Macdowell as his producer, Rita. Although *Groundhog Day* is generally celebrated as a humorous holiday, the movie has plenty of theological meat to chew on. And it's loads of fun. Here's some trivia I gleaned from movie websites:

- Bill Murray was bitten by the groundhog twice during shooting.
- Director Harold Ramis originally wanted Tom Hanks for the lead role, but decided against it, saying that Hanks was "too nice."
- Bill Murray (as Phil) quotes lines from a poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Work Without Hope": *"All Nature seems at work; slugs leave their lair, The bees are stirring; birds are on the wing, And winter, slumbering in the open air, Wears on his smiling face a dream of spring; And I, the while, the sole unbusy thing, Nor honey make, nor pair, nor build, nor sing."*
- The lines Andie MacDowell quotes in the café - *"unwept, unhonoured, and unsung"* - are from Sir Walter Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel", Canto vi, Stanza 1, which begins with the famous line, *"Breathes there a man with soul so dead..."*
- *Groundhog Day* was chosen to be preserved by the National Film Registry in 2007.
- The movie was not filmed in Punxsutawney, but actually in Woodstock, Illinois (just 45 miles from Bill Murray's hometown of Wilmette). There is a small plaque that reads "Bill Murray stepped here" on the curb where Murray continually steps into a puddle.
- At the piano teacher's house, when Phil is fumblingly playing Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*, he is actually Bill Murray playing. Murray does not read music, but he learned that much of the song by ear. Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*, specifically its 18th Variation, was also used in another time fantasy movie, *Somewhere in Time* (1980).
- According to director Harold Ramis, most of the times when he tried to explain a scene to Bill Murray, Murray would interrupt and ask, "Just tell me - good Phil or bad Phil?"
- *Groundhog Day* is ranked #8 on the American Film Institute's list of the 10 greatest films in the genre "Fantasy" in June 2008.
- Since the film's release, the town of Punxsutawney has now become a major tourist attraction.
- A family of groundhogs was actually raised for the production.
- *Groundhog Day* is listed as one of Roger Ebert's Great Movies.

*Groundhog Day*, the holiday, is celebrated on February 2, having historical connections to the medieval Catholic celebration of Candlemas and the pagan holiday of Imbolc. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If, on the other hand, it is sunny, the groundhog will

supposedly "see its shadow" and retreat back into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks.

The premise of the movie is that Phil Connors keeps living the same day – Groundhog Day – over and over and over again. Once he realizes his predicament, he tries various methods to break out of this pattern. He encounters a townie named Ralph:

Phil: *What would you do if you were stuck in one place and every day was exactly the same, and nothing that you did mattered?*

Ralph: *That about sums it up for me.*

In desperation, Phil takes to extreme methods. He tries to kill himself, in many and varied ways. No luck. He still wakes up every morning, very alive -- and trapped. After his suicide attempts fail, Phil concludes he is invincible. He has a talk with Rita:

Phil: *I'm a god.*

Rita: *You're God?*

Phil: *I'm a god. I'm not the God... I don't think.*

Rita: *You're not a god. You can take my word for it; this is 12 yrs of Catholic school talking.*

Phil Connors goes through all the stages of grief as he tries to free himself from his prison of time. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and – finally – acceptance.

Once Phil Connors accepts that he is trapped in whatever crazy existence he finds himself, he begins to truly live. He no longer runs around in desperation, trying to escape. He leans back and rests in the time and place he has been given. He begins to look around and appreciate what is here, right now, today. He learns to play the piano, to help others, to enjoy good literature and fine music, to truly cherish his loved ones with no strings attached, to accept his limitations and his giftedness.

As Christians, we can add one element to the formula that ultimately “saves” Phil Connors. We can add the true and certain knowledge of the love of God in Christ Jesus. Much of what Phil struggles with throughout the movie is the worship of false idols. He desires everything – money, love, fame, comfort, security, excitement. He desires everything but God.






May we all find meaning in each day -- no matter what our struggles -- through prayer, scripture, corporate worship, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

***For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)***

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Sharon

### **February Lectionary Readings:**

- 6 Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20
- 13 Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
- 20 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
- 27 Isaiah 49:8-16a; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FEBRUARY 2011</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Be Mine</i></p>		<p>1 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b></p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm NAs 7 pm. Webelos 7 pm</p> <p><b>SPRC 7 pm</b> </p>	<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Groundhog Day</p>  <p>NAs 8 am</p>	<p>3 NAs 8:30 am</p> <p>Community Bible Study 7:30 am</p> <p>Treble Clefs 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b></p> <p>Pack 10, 7 pm</p>	<p>4 NAs 8 am</p> <p>Nine-Patchers Quilting 9 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENT'S NIGHT OUT</b> 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm</p> <p>NAs 7 pm</p>	5
<p>6</p> <p><b>COMMUNION</b> Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sun School 10:30 New Members Class 10:30 Souper Bowl Sunday Youth-Skid Row NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>7 NAs 8 am</p> <p>Pack 4, 7 pm</p>	<p>8 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b></p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>9 NAs 8 am</p>	<p>10 NAs 8 am Community Bible Study 7:30 am</p> <p>Treble Clefs 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b></p> <p>Pack 10, 7 pm</p>	<p>11 NAs 8 am</p> <p>Nine-Patchers Quilting 9 am</p> <p>NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ancestry Group 11 am-2 pm Matthews and Cressy Rooms</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 New Members Class 10:30 <b>BLOOD DRIVE</b> 10am-2pm EPIC 5 pm</p> <p>NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p> St. Valentine's Day</p> <p>NAs 8 a.m.</p> <p>Pack 4, 7 pm</p>	<p>15 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b></p> <p>NAs 7 pm Troop 9 Boy Scouts 7 pm</p> <p><b>Finance Comm. 7 pm</b> </p>	<p>16 NAs 8 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>United Methodist Women 10 am</b></p>	<p>17 NAs 8 am Community Bible Study 7:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Staff Meeting 11 am</b></p> <p>Treble Clefs 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b></p> <p>Pack 10, 7 pm</p>	<p>18 NAs 8 am</p> <p>Nine-Patchers Quilting 9 am</p> <p>NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>United Methodist Men Breakfast 8 am</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> featuring Robert West and Brent Rolf</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 New Members Class 10:30</p> <p>NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>21 NAs 8 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Susanna Wesley Circle 7 pm</b></p> <p>Pack 4, 7 pm</p>	<p>22 Woodcarvers 8 am, NAs 8 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b></p> <p>Boy Scouts 7 pm NAs 7 pm</p> <p><b>Program Committees 6:30 pm Ad Council 7:30 m</b> </p>	<p>23 NAs 8 am</p>	<p>24 <b>Flag Day</b></p>  <p>NAs 8 am Community Bible Study 7:30 am</p> <p>Treble Clefs 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b></p> <p>Pack 10, 7 pm</p>	<p>25 NAs 8 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EPIC Outing</b></p> <p>NA's pm</p>	26
<p>27</p> <p>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 New Members Class 10:30 SSP Spaghetti Dinner – 11:30 EPIC 5 pm</p> <p>NAs 7 pm</p>	<p>28 NAs 8 am</p> <p>Pack 4, 7 pm</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>John 15:12</b> This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.</p>				



## New Members Classes

will be held on these Sundays:

**February 6**  
**February 13**  
**February 20**  
**February 27**

Pastor Sharon will gather with interested folks in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, finishing up at 11:30 a.m.

Please let the church office know if you are interested in becoming a member of the UMC of Yucaipa!  
797-1143

## Question of the Month:



### Why do we have a flower calendar?

In the narthex, we have a big calendar that lists every Sunday in 2011. Beside the calendar are little slips of paper where you can pick an available Sunday and sign up to bring flowers for the altar on that day. Some people choose to celebrate an anniversary or a birthday this way. Others choose to remember a friend or relative. And still others choose a "just because" Sunday to thank God with flowers at the foot of the cross. Some people buy arrangements or bouquets from a florist. Some people get flowers from the florist shop in a grocery store. And some people who tend God's garden at home bring a vase of flowers freshly cut that morning or the night before!

You are invited to remind us all of the beauty of Jesus Christ's gifts to us by bringing flowers for worship on one Sunday this year!



## IMPORTANT REMINDER:



If you are in need of a pastoral visit, or if you know of someone else from our church family who is in need of visitation, **please be sure to let Pastor Sharon know!**

You can leave a message with Linda Ewan at the **church office, 797-1143**, or you can e-mail Pastor Sharon directly at [pastorsharon@yucaipamethodist.org](mailto:pastorsharon@yucaipamethodist.org).

In case of **emergency**, please call Pastor Sharon on her cellphone: 1-661-810-3953.

## A Heartfelt Thank You

To *United Methodist Church*

For your donation of \$ 200<sup>00</sup>

*We purchased holiday 'extras' for our clients with your donation. Thanks!*

*Susan [Signature] Executive Director*

Date: *12-30-2010*

**Interfaith Community Support**  
12687 California Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399  
Food & Essential Resources

# Have a Heart!



**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE  
ON FEBRUARY 13, 2011**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL  
10:00 AM UNTIL 2:00 PM**

 **LifeStream**  
GIVE HOPE | GIVE LIFE | GIVE BLOOD

## **EPIC:**

### **EverLasting Peace in Christ**

EPIC meets on Sundays from 5-6:30 PM in Baumann Hall (the upstairs office). All youth are invited to attend. Friends are welcome! Games, insight sessions and fellowship make up this time together. Please plan to come.

### **FEBRUARY**

- 4 - Parents' Night Out - 5:30-8:00 PM  
Volunteers needed at 5 PM
- 6 - Souper Bowl Sunday - Get your soup and bread for local outreach  
5-6:30 PM - EPIC
- 13 - Life Stream Blood Drive - 10AM - 2PM  
5-6:30 PM - EPIC
- 14 - HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !!!
- 20 - NO EPIC
- 25 - EPIC Outing to be decided by the group.  
27 - 5-6:30 PM EPIC

## **MARCH**

- 8 - Fat Tuesday - Mardi Gras EPIC Fundraiser - 5-7 PM
- 9 - Ash Wednesday Service
- 13 - 1st Sunday of Lent - Lenten Program at 4 PM
- 20 - 2nd Sunday of Lent - Lenten Program - EPIC Fundraiser (Purim)
- 27 - 3rd Sunday of Lent - Lenten Program at 4 PM

Please plan to participate in the upcoming events. Help us to plan other events that you'd enjoy, also.

Love and Peace,  
Amy



## Parents' Night Out!



**WHO:** Children Ages 4 yrs ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Friends Welcome!

**WHAT:** Games, Crafts, Pizza Dinner, VeggieTales

**WHEN:** Friday, February 4, 2011, 5:30 to 8:00 pm

**WHY:** For kids to have fun and let parents find fun, too

**HOW:** RSVP to the church at 909-797-1143 or e-mail Amy B. at [amy@yucaipamethodist.org](mailto:amy@yucaipamethodist.org)



We're asking that each child bring \$5.00 to cover the costs of food and materials, plus a box of cereal for the local food pantry



## Sierra Service Project

# 2011

Several youth and two adult counselors (Deb and Pastor Sharon) will be going to the Navajo Nation in north-eastern Arizona July 23-31, 2011 for a Sierra Service Project mission trip. A fund-raising dinner will be held soon! Please support our youth in this endeavor through eating and flocking!



## February Birthdays



- 1 Carol Pistilli  
Alan Van Tassel
- 5 Marilyn Newell
- 6 Sharon Kelsey
- 9 Lori Moore  
Claire Severson
- 10 Anne Kell
- 12 Sam Rice
- 13 Jackie Shook
- 15 Lorraine Popejoy
- 21 Duffy Hall
- 24 Mary Claridge  
Kay Cloninger
- 25 Ann Wilson
- 28 Lena Weeks

characters: Haley Tyrone, Sarah and Aaron Fisher, Ross Harps, David and Jenna Rolf, Emily and Breanna Hinckley, Bianca and Kathryn Forte, and Chris and Josh Snapp-Kolas.

The program continued with Wes Harty and June Fisher with the singing of carols along with their guest reindeer extraordinaire, Joel Fisher. Pastor Sharon served as the MC, sharing holiday cheer throughout the event. What a joyful afternoon! The festive cookies donated by the choir and others were delicious and appreciated. Laura Adams and Linda Ewan and their helpers did an incredible job of decorating the tables and setting a festive mood. Arden Adams's hot wassail (Sharon Holder's recipe) was a hit, too!

Thank you to all the participants and those who braved the rain to attend the Advent program. I know it was a special time for all.

Blessings to each of you throughout this year!

Amy Bahnsen

Director of Youth Ministries

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## February Anniversaries



- 4 Robert & Barbara  
Forte
- 8 Harold & Erma Hudson
- 17 Ralph & Beth Snook
- 21 Frank & Mary Dussel

*Yucaipa-Calimesa News Mirror – Dec. 17, 201)*

### ***Yucaipa Residents – You Rock!***

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Yucaipa Family Assistance, I would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance at our quarterly can food drive on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Bryant Street Stater Bros.

First and foremost the residents of Yucaipa stepped up and were extremely generous with their monetary donations as well as the canned food we collected. In addition, I want to thank the members of our board: Glenrae Jenks, Jan Sterling, Barbara Thomas and my tireless helper Sherri McMillan.

Our agency would also like to thank the following volunteers for their tireless support during this event: Norma Cano, ***and members of the United Methodist Church of Yucaipa, Amy Bahnsen, youth director; and youth members Michelle and Julie Kielhold, Emily and Breanna Hinckley and Raina Loya.*** We would like to invite all residents of Yucaipa/Calimesa to visit our agency and see what we have to offer.

*Kim Holmes, president*



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## A Christmas Thank You

The Children and Youth Christmas Program, "Our Family Memories of Christmas," by Patrick A Williamson, was a bit of a change as we got to incorporate memories of Christmas from four of our congregants. We heard a bit of Christmas nostalgia through interviews with Ed Sarvis, Richard Birnbaum, Laura Adams, and Floyd Crosby. The Christmas scenes at the Inn and with the Shepherds each held guest performers. Bill Klein and Pastor Ron shared their thespian skills as the Innkeeper and a Shepherd. They were supported by a strong cast of narrators, interview readers, and Biblical



## The Book Nook

Philip Gulley's *Front Porch Tales* is one of the best

reading experiences I have had in a long time. The stories in the collection are true, and each carries an important Christian message. They're presented in an engaging writing style, much of which is very funny. I found myself literally laughing out loud at times as I was reading!

One of the stories, for instance, talks about birthday parties parents give for their children. On one occasion, the author and his two year-old son attended a party where the parents had actually rented a pony for the children to ride on. The parents of the guests were upset because they thought that they would now be expected to hire ponies for their own kids' parties. But that did not turn out to be the case for the Gulleys. As he puts it, "Thank God the pony went nuts and bucked a kid off, so my son doesn't want anything to do with ponies. I guess it's true that all things work for good for those who love the Lord." (p. 86) Later in this story he makes the point that children need their parents' presence more than their presents.

Another story, titled "My Grandma, the Saint," is a bit more somber. Commenting on his grandmother's passing, Gully writes:

*At her funeral, the priest said it was a day of celebration. That's the kind of thing we ministers learn to say in seminary. And it holds up until someone like Grandma dies, then no amount of heaven-talk eases the pain. The graveyard sees a hurt the classroom never knows.*

*In the Bible it tells us not to worry, that in God's house are found mansions aplenty. I don't think Grandma would like a mansion. Too much dusting. Just give her a porch swing and a child needing love. And throw in a breeze that blows in from*

*the old days, when an hour with a saint made all the world right. (p. 33)*

There are 43 stories like this in the book, which contains only 168 large print pages. Some of the story titles are "The Wizard of Is," "The Front Porch Classroom," "My Cup Runneth Over and So Does My Toilet," "The Dog Who Wouldn't Die," and "Family Life and Other Reasons Jesus Never Married."

Phillip Gulley is a Quaker minister who was raised a Roman Catholic. He has kind words for Christians of all denominations. This book, copyrighted in 1997, became a bestseller, which is no surprise to me. I thoroughly enjoyed it and am looking forward to reading another of Gulley's books.

Arden Adams



### United Methodist Men

The February 19<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting of the United Methodist Men will feature

#### Robert West and Brent Rolf

as our speakers. Robert is employed by ESRI, a company based in Redlands that provides quality software products to the County of San Bernardino. Brent is part of the Information Services Department of the County of San Bernardino. He works closely with Robert in order to provide quality and timely products and services to the residents and businesses of San Bernardino County.

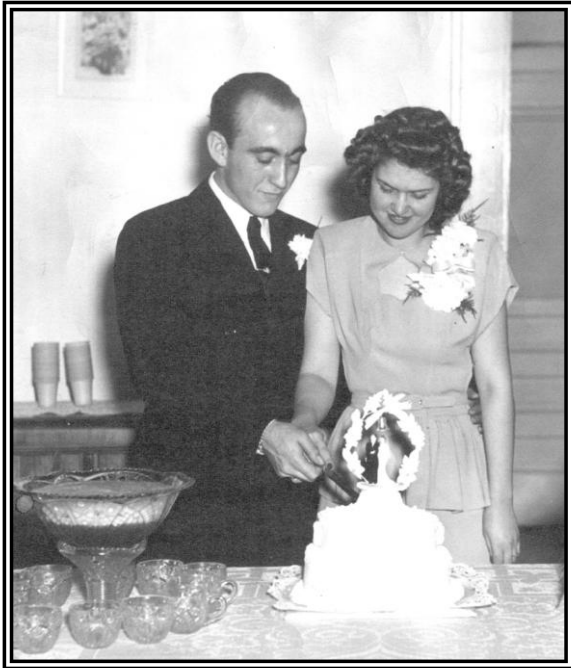
**All are invited** to come and learn about the fascinating work done by these two members of our congregation.

Remember,

**Bob's Big Boy in Calimesa,  
Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.**



See you there!  
Ralph Snook, President



## Who's in Your Pew?

They were both born in Texas, 40 miles apart. "In those days it was a long way!" he laughs. Her birthday was August 21, 1925, and his was January 7, 1926. "I always tell people that she's older than I am," he jokes, and she laughs and nods her head. It is only five minutes into the interview, and I already know that I'm going to enjoy the conversation immensely.

Harold Reed Hudson was the youngest of 11 children. His mom and dad, both widowed and each with five children already, met and married. The result of that union was Harold, and there were no more children after him. "They figured, 'We can't improve on this, so let's not have any more,'" he asserts emphatically. The Hudson family owned a cotton farm. "Dad cut the handle of a hoe in half and handed it to me when I was four years old. He only had me hoe in the weed patch, though. He didn't trust me with the vegetables." There were no tractors on the farm – mules provided the muscle. "I learned to ride a horse before I could walk," he continues. Their house had neither electricity nor running water. There was an outhouse about 150 feet behind the house. "We took our baths in a

No.2 or No.3 washtub. I didn't get to use anything but lye soap until I started school. That soap was made from lye and rendered hog fat. Let me tell you, when you took a bath with it, you were clean. It darn near took skin and all, and it smelled awful! Then someone brought some Lifebuoy soap to school and I used it. I didn't know that soap could smell so good and be so easy on your skin!" Harold's sister Avis, 11 years older than he, was his 'alternate mother.' She watched over little Harold while his mom was busy with the house and the garden and the rest of the family. "When I got a little older, my brothers and I had several activities to keep ourselves entertained. We played Tarzan in the big pecan trees. We also made stilts out of 2"x4"s and would see who could walk the farthest without falling off. We made guns using scrap wood and clothespins to shoot rubber bands. We jumped from the top of our two-story barn onto a haystack, which was very dangerous. We caught lightning bugs and put them in glass jars. And we played lots of hide-and-seek."

Erma Ruth Shelton's family owned a 100-acre cotton farm. She was, of course, just a child when the Great Depression hit. "We were very fortunate," she says seriously. "Nothing changed for us. We were on the farm, and we produced our own food." Erma didn't have to work in the fields. Her mother was an invalid, and Erma was her caretaker because Erma's three brothers and two sisters were all older by quite a bit. She attended a little country school. "There was no kindergarten back then, and no 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our town had a grocery store, a filling station, a cotton gin, and a bank." During her high school years she participated in 4-H, Choral Club, and played the piano.



Harold's school was similar to hers. There were 16 students in his graduating class – 15 boys and one girl. During his high school years, Harold played basketball, baseball, volleyball, and participated in track and field and softball. "We were good!" he claims. He was also a member of 4-H. "For the life of me, I can't remember what all those four H's stood for, but it was supposed to teach kids

responsibility. I raised a pig. I always knew that it would end up as sausage, bacon, and ham, so I didn't get attached to it." About half a mile from his family's farm there was a four or five-acre rock quarry that was full of water ranging from three to five feet in depth. "The water was so clear you could see the bottom at the deepest point." Harold loved to swim there, usually alone. But when he and his brothers rode their bikes to the quarry, they'd ride as fast as they could toward the edge and sail out over the cliff to see who could go the farthest. "We went to church and Sunday school in Portland. The church is still standing – it's an historical site, but not just because of me." *[Harold and Erma went back to visit the site last summer. The temperature that day was 106, and the weather was extremely humid. Erma suffered heat stroke before Harold could get her to the air-conditioned car, and she hasn't yet fully recovered.]*

Harold decided that he'd like to go to law school, but couldn't qualify, so at age 17 he chose to join the United States Navy and headed for San Diego. He went through all of the obligatory rigors that enlisted men endure. Once he was officially an "Old Salt," he even got a tattoo. It depicts a cowgirl with rosy cheeks. "I still have it," he laughs, "but the rose has gone from her cheeks." (He didn't show it to me, so you'll have to ask him about its location.)

Because he was an excellent swimmer, Harold was assigned to a Yard Mine Sweeper, *YMS281*. The wooden ship, 150 feet long and 35 feet across the beam, had a crew of 36. Mine sweepers were sent to check for mines before invasions. Harold and two other sailors who were good swimmers volunteered to go over the side and swim under water looking for moored mines that had been planted to repel landing boats. If they found any, they would mark them by tying a small float to the down cable. Then they would go back in a small boat with some heavy duty cable cutters and swim back down to cut the cables that tethered the mines to the ocean floor so that



the mines would float to the surface, where they could be fired upon and detonated. "We had to be careful not to touch the horns on the mines – if I had ever done that I wouldn't be here talking to you." Harold also qualified to use shallow water diving gear, consisting of a facemask and an air hose connected to a compressor. He could work for fairly long amounts of time at 10 to 15 feet deep. He had a belt weighted with lead to help him stay under water. "I did the inspecting of the underside of the ship. We had to keep our hull clean of marine growth to reduce noise that would affect the sonar. I also used it to remove anything that got tangled in our propellers. One time I was under the ship cutting some rope that had gotten caught. The propeller shaft is held by V-shaped struts attached to the ship. I was sitting right in the bottom of the V cutting on the rope when I happened to look up and see a huge fish staring at me! At first I thought it was a shark, but then I realized that it had stopped swimming, which sharks don't do. So I made a swing with my arm and it took off. No brownie points for getting treed by a fish!"

Harold's autobiographical "Life and Times" notebook details all kinds of technical aspects of *YMS281* and the types of mines it searched for – much too much information for this column, but it is all fascinating. Its crew operated in four invasions: Boganville, Guam, Plaloo, and Saipan. He and his fellow swimmers were recommended for a Presidential citation for their work at Boganville, and again at Guam. The morning of that invasion they did their normal run to clear out any mines that might be in the path of the landing boats, and then pulled out to let the Marines go to work after the big battleships go through. After an hour or so of standing by, they spotted something in the water 200 or so yards off shore. Harold's team of swimmers went to investigate, and found several drums filled with gasoline. They were told to bring the drums alongside the ship so that they could be hoisted aboard. They took a rubber raft with them so that they could tie the drums to it and push them back to the ship. Part way through the operation, the Japanese began shooting at them from the

shoreline. They hit the raft, but couldn't see the swimmers among the drums. The captain, fearing that the Japanese might start raking the ship with their machine gun, did the proper thing: he put the ship in high gear and took off to get out of range. "It could have been curtains for a wooden ship if those drums had been punctured!" Harold's team swam for about three-quarters of a mile to where the Marines had established a beachhead and waited to be transported back to their ship the next day.

When the ship returned to the island of Espiritu Santu and got resupplied, it was assigned to escort another convoy of cargo ships. The sailors never knew what type of cargo was in the ships they escorted, but one of the ships in this convoy must have had its holds filled with ammunition. One night, just about bedtime, it blew up. "The blast was so great that the force of the shockwave tilted our ship to port maybe 15 or more degrees. Our ship was severely damaged by parts of the cargo ship flying through the air. It was covered by fuel oil from the other ship. One man was killed by flying metal. A small piece of metal hit me in the leg, but it didn't hurt at that time. I was too stunned to feel anything right then." Daylight was to reveal that there were several holes in the main deck. One long piece of metal rod, about three inches in diameter and about five feet long, had gone through the main deck and wound up in the magazine locker, where all the explosives were stored. Fortunately, the metal had landed in the walkway, not on the live ammunition.

Eventually, Harold was re-assigned to the *USS Greyhound* out of Bremerton as part a Master-at-Arms section. "This was great duty. We enforced the laws onboard ship; in other words, we were the police for the ship. We had a Chief Boatswain Mate in charge of us, and I was his second in command. When he was gone, I was the boss, which had its perks. It was nice to be able to make out my own liberty passes."

Harold has many more stories about the Navy, and will be happy to tell them if you want to visit with him during Fellowship after church. Being a female reporter, however, I wanted to hear about his romance with Erma.

"Avis brought us together," Erma smiles. Erma and Avis were working at the Federal Reserve Bank. The bank was staffed entirely by women. As part of the war effort, the girls used to write to sailors overseas, and Avis gave Erma Harold's name and address. "I was writing just to be nice," she pronounces emphatically. The sailors, in turn, were ordered to write letters back to the States. "They made me write my mama, my niece, Erma, and other girls from school. Erma and I had exchanged a few letters before I came home, but we had only met briefly when I went by to see Avis at the bank on my way through Dallas to Virginia. Erma insists that I don't remember her separately from the other fifty or so women my sister introduced me to that day. I was kind of nervous up there with all those girls, and besides, I had other things on my mind besides meeting a bunch of women." Contrary to Erma's recollection, however, after he got home and visited all of his relatives Harold called Erma on the telephone and asked her for a date. She said "No." He tried again a few days later, and this time she said that he could take her out to dinner. They double-dated with Avis and her boyfriend and went to a Mexican restaurant called El Phoenix. After that, Erma and Harold continued to date. They had met in November of 1946, and they were married February 8, 1947. "I had dated a lot of girls in the Navy, and Erma had dated lots of other guys. But she was the type of girl I wanted, and I was a really great guy. I knew she was the one when we went out and I ordered one glass of water with two straws and it was okay with her," he says innocently. "He's making that up," she laughs, shaking her head as I start to write his words down. "No, she just has a poor memory," he retorts.

Jobs were scarce after the war, and Harold had no marketable work experience. Fortunately, Dallas Power and Light was looking for temporary help, and Harold landed a job working inside one of the boiler units mucking out the "black gooey goop" that was inside. After about six weeks Harold was told that the supervisors liked his work habits and wanted to employ him full time. They sent him to the meter testing lab, where he was assigned to assist an old gentleman by carrying his tools and test equipment, handing him his tools, getting the test leads out, and hooking them to the test standard, as well as cleaning the glass covers of the

power meters. Neither Erma nor Harold had cars or even driver's licenses, so the old gentleman helped Harold get a license that would enable him to drive a company car when necessary.

Harold worked hard and progressed to more complicated assignments. He and Erma didn't purchase a car for quite awhile; he rode a bicycle to work, and they rode the streetcar or a bus when they needed to travel. They finally purchased a 1941 Nash Ambassador and moved into a small trailer. ("During this time I had my tonsils taken out, and the doctor botched the job and cut the side of my throat. I had a really bad time.")

After he had been working at Dallas Power and Light for about a year, Harold and his brother Mutt decided to go to Alaska and get in on the land giveaway. The Federal Government was trying to get people to settle there, and was offering 160 acres of free land. It sounded like a good deal, so they wrote to the Secretary of the Interior and got the required paperwork. Harold gave his notice at DP&L. Then Mutt's wife Geneva announced that she was expecting a baby, which meant that Mutt could not be away for the length of time that it would require to get established in Alaska.

Harold went back to DP&L to find a job, to no avail. So he found a job at the Fuller Brush Company. Randall was on the way, and the couple had purchased a home. He started taking classes at night at Southern Methodist University, but after three semesters he realized that it was too difficult to work full time and go to university at night. Their son Randall was born in 1949, and their daughter Patricia was born in 1950. "That's the size family we wanted, so we didn't have any more." Harold's mother and father lived with them and took care of the children because Erma had to go back to work at the bank. Harold worked part time as a taxi driver, an usher in a movie theater, and a clerk in a 7-11 type of store. (He didn't care for the latter experience. "I have a very short fuse in those types of situations.")

After about three years he found a new job opportunity with the Harry M. Chase aircraft repair and remodeling company at Love Field in Dallas. He was in charge of a crew of five men in stocking and purchasing. When the company split, his group went to Garland Airport, about 10 miles from Love

Field. Harold knew that business would be good there as long as there were a lot of war surplus planes to be converted from cargo planes to luxury craft for oil barons, but he also knew that he needed to have a trade if he was going to enjoy job security.

"About that time," he explains, "television was coming on the scene in a big way. We bought our first television. It was a 10-inch RCA black and white. It was in a huge cabinet that could accommodate the huge 25 lb. transformer." Erma interjects, "We were one of the first to get one, so we had lots of company coming over to watch T.V." "Anyhow," Harold continues, "there was a trade school in Dallas that taught electronics theory and television servicing. I decided to give it a try. It was pretty grueling because I worked all day and went to school at night, two hours a night and three nights a week. After about six months I earned my certificate of completion and was ready to go into work as an electronics technician. It wasn't hard to find work in that field – I soon took a job with Griff's TV Service, and then A1 TV services. I was making more money at this job than any job I had ever had. But I had a falling out with one of the owners because he wanted me to do some shady type of service. I refused, so he fired me. I told him, 'You can't fire somebody who just quit!'"

Erma and Harold had talked about moving to California, so they decided that his being "between jobs" was a good time to go. Harold packed his suitcase and went ahead to look for a job. He found one right away with Southern California Edison. (He stayed with Edison for the rest of his working career.) He started in the Telephone Shop, cleaning and installing 'phones. From there he moved to the Radio Shop, repairing two-way radio transmitter/receivers and installing them. Next he went to the Microwave Shop, where he used sophisticated test equipment on several different brands of microwave equipment. After only six months he was appointed to the position of Westinghouse Microwave expert. The supervisor drove him to one of the closest mountain peaks, where there were four Westinghouse microwave bays. He learned the specialized equipment needed to test and align the equipment without interrupting service. After about four hours they got back in the car and headed to the Edison headquarters in

Alhambra. The supervisor tossed the keys to Harold and said, "Now you are the expert. Hit the books!"

Harold took that advice and burned the midnight oil reading technical manuals. In a year he was promoted to Area Technician, and he moved the family to Inglewood. The freeway opened, but there was very little traffic at first, so the commute from Inglewood to Santa Monica wasn't bad. Harold became a Boy Scoutmaster, meeting every two weeks with 10 boys. "I took them on a 50 mile hike. I lost a lot of weight on that hike," he says ruefully.

In not too long a time Harold was covering service in Culver City, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, and Burbank, among others. He met several movie actors in their homes when he was checking out interference problems. He even had a key to the gate that let him in to the MGM lot. Further on, Harold devised a maintenance program to computerize the tracking of the costs of maintaining every mobile radio and major piece of equipment. This led him to a two-week preventative maintenance program put on by Disneyland. Upon completion, he was promoted to Supervisor of

Maintenance of all Edison communication technicians. He had 45 employees based at various locations from the Mexican border to Reno, Santa Barbara, Bullhead City, and Blythe. Then, in July of 1971, Harold asked that his office be moved from Alhambra to Rialto to cut down on some of the travel time. He and Erma sold their home in Inglewood and bought one in Rialto. The house was about two miles from the Rialto airport, and Harold had wanted for years to learn how to fly a plane. So he started taking flying lessons after work and on weekends. He did his first solo flight on May 24, 1974. After awhile he purchased a

Cherokee 140, and he and Erma enjoyed several trips.

(The details of Harold's work at Edison are far over this reporter's head, but those of you who are mentally and experientially prepared to discuss them will have to ask Harold for further information.) Anyway, as he puts it, "On April 1, 1985, I pulled the plug and became one of the unemployed, and I haven't worked since."

Since then, he and Erma have visited every state in the Union at least three times, except for Alaska, where they've yet to complete the third trip. They've toured the capitol of every state. Harold was even "kicked out by a Democrat" from one congressional chamber. (He himself was a Democrat at that time.) They have two grandchildren, both boys. Their son Randall earned a Ph.D at Washington State and teaches at the

medical school for the State University of New York at Buffalo. Randall's wife has her doctorate in Pharmacology, and travels all over the world. Their daughter Patricia works for the Internal Revenue Service and lives in the garage that Harold converted into an apartment for her. Harold loves photography, and he does a lot of "behind the scenes" work at church, from installing handrails to recording services for shut-ins. He

and Erma look at each other with the same sparkle in their eyes that shows in their wedding photos. "Somewhere in our house is a plaque that says, 'I love you, not just for what you are, but what I am when I am with you,'" Harold says. "With Erma, I'm happy as a bug." And when you watch her look at him and listen to her chuckle, you'll know that the feeling is mutual.



**50th Wedding Anniversary, February 8, 1997**

*Laura Adams*



From Pastor Ron, June Fisher, and the Tuesday Morning Prayer Warriors:

## **Lord, Make Me an Intercessor**

Make me an Intercessor,  
One who can really pray:  
One of the Lord's Remembrancers  
By night as well as day.

Make me an Intercessor,  
In Spirit-touch with Thee,  
And given the heavenly vision,  
Pray through to victory.

Make me an Intercessor;  
Teach me how to prevail,  
To stand my ground and still pray on,  
Though pow'rs of hell assail.

Make me an Intercessor,  
Till pleading at Thy throne,  
The sins and sorrows of other lives  
Become my very own.

Make me an Intercessor,  
Sharing Thy death and life,  
In prayer, claiming for others  
Victory in the strife.

*Author Unknown*

*You are worshipfully invited to join the Prayer Warriors at 9:30 am on Tuesdays in the Hugh Meserve Prayer Room for an hour of intercessory prayer for our members, our community, our nation, and our world.*



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(909)797-1143

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### Our Presence for Sunday Worship:

	Totals	Average
Worship	562	112
Sunday School	148	30
Christmas Eve	173	

Totals for Five Sundays – December 19, 2010 through January 16, 2011

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Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas – Pastor  
Rev. Ron Faux – Pastor of Visitation  
Amy Bahnson – Director of Youth,  
Praise Worship Leader  
Melissa McDannell – Nursery  
Linda Ewan – Church Secretary  
Wes Harty – Choir Director  
June Fisher – Organist  
Chris Nielsen – Accountant  
Laura Adams – Friendly Visitor Columnist  
Gerald Pugh – Caretaker  
Phil Michelsen – Facilities Management  
Sunday Services  
Gathering – 8:45 a.m.  
Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Fellowship 10:15  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Nursery Care all morning

[www.yucaipamethodist.org](http://www.yucaipamethodist.org)

[info@yucaipamethodist.org](mailto:info@yucaipamethodist.org)

**Deadline for the Friendly Visitor is the 10th of each month.**