

# Tidings

Bayshore Presbyterian Church

May 6, 2016

## Honor Thy Mother...

On May 8, 2016 we honor those mothers who gave us life, love, encouragement, direction, and helped lay the foundation for the people we would eventually become.



Whether our mothers were typical "Norman Rockwell" type Moms, or not-so-traditional, modern miracle



workers, our Moms were probably the first, and arguably our best, introduction to the world around us.

Our religious heritage is also rich with loving, strong and influential mothers whose lives likewise deserve remembrance on this Mother's Day, 2016.



*Eve* was the first woman on earth, the first wife, and the first mother. She is known as the "Mother of All the Living." And although these are remarkable accomplishments, very little is known about Eve.

There is not much said of her in the book of Genesis. Like most mothers, even though her accomplishments were great, they were, for the most part, overlooked.

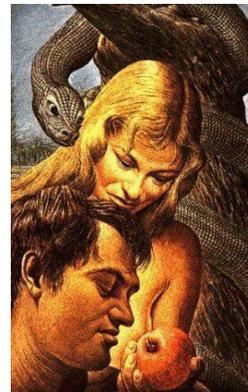
Eve was Adam's companion, his helper, the one who would complete him and share equally in his responsibility over creation. She, too, was made in God's image, displaying a portion of the characteristics of God. Together, only Adam and Eve could fulfill God's purpose in the continuation of creation. With Eve, God brought human relationship, friendship, and marriage into the world.

Eve was tempted by Satan when he deceived her into doubting God's goodness. The serpent urged her to focus on the one thing she couldn't have. She lost sight

### Inside This Issue

1	Honor Thy Mother
2	Honor Thy Mother
3	Honor Thy Mother
3	Celebrating Pentecost
3	Announcements
4	Prayer List, Birthdays and Anniversaries
4	Another Reason to Celebrate
4	Just Another Day on the Bayshore (OK; not exactly)

of all of the pleasurable things God had blessed her with in the Garden of Eden. She became discontented, feeling sorry for herself because she could not share in God's knowledge of good and evil. Eve allowed Satan to subvert her trust in God.



Although she shared a close relationship with God and her husband, Eve failed to consult either of them when confronted with Satan's lies. She acted impulsively, independent of her authority. Once entangled in sin, she invited her husband to join her. Like Adam, when Eve was confronted with her sin, she blamed someone else (Satan), instead of taking personal responsibility for what she had done.

We learn from Eve that women share in God's image. There are feminine qualities to the character of God. God's purpose for creation could not be fulfilled without the equal participation of "womankind." Just like we learned from Adam's life, Eve also teaches us that God wants us to freely choose to follow and obey him out of love. Nothing we do is hidden from God. Likewise, it does not benefit us to blame others for our own failings. We must accept personal responsibility for what we do.



**Sarah** (originally named Sarai) was one of several women in the Bible who were unable to have children. That proved doubly distressing for her because God had promised her husband Abraham that he would be the father of the Jewish nation, with descendants more numerous than the stars in the sky.

After waiting many years, Sarah convinced Abraham to



sleep with her handmaid, Hagar, to produce an heir. That was an accepted practice in ancient times. The child born of that encounter was named Ishmael. But God had not forgotten his promise. Three heavenly beings, disguised as travelers, appeared to Abraham.

God repeated his promise to Abraham that his wife would bear a son. Even though Sarah was very old, she did conceive and deliver a son. They named him Isaac.

Isaac would father Esau and Jacob. Jacob would father 12 sons who would become heads of the 12 tribes of Israel. From the tribe of Judah would come David, and finally Jesus of Nazareth, God's promised Savior

Waiting for God to act in our lives may be the hardest task we ever face. It's also true that we can become dissatisfied when God's solution does not match our expectations. Sarah's life teaches us that when we feel doubtful or afraid, we should remember what God said to Abraham, "*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*"

Sarah waited 90 years to have a baby. Certainly she had given up hope of ever seeing her dream of motherhood fulfilled. Sarah was looking at God's promise from her limited, human perspective. But the Lord used her life to unfold an extraordinary plan, proving that he is never limited by what *usually* happens. Sometimes we feel like God has placed our lives in a permanent holding pattern. Rather than taking matters into our own hands, we can let Sarah's story remind us that a time of waiting may be God's precise plan for us.



**Rebekah** was assertive in a time when women were expected to be submissive. This quality helped her become Isaac's wife but caused trouble when she pushed one of her sons ahead of the other. Abraham, father of the Jewish nation, did not want his son Isaac to marry one of the pagan Canaanite women in the area, so he sent his servant Eliezer to his

hometown to find a wife for Isaac. When the servant arrived, he prayed that the right girl would not only offer him a drink of water from the well, but offer to water his ten camels too.

Rebekah came out with her water jar and did exactly that! She agreed to go back with the servant and became Isaac's wife.



In time, Abraham died. Like her mother-in-law Sarah, Rebekah was also barren. Isaac prayed to God for her and Rebekah conceived twins. They named the twins Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first, but Jacob became Rebekah's favorite.



When the boys grew up, Jacob tricked his older brother into selling his birthright for a bowl of stew. Later, as Isaac was dying and his eyesight had failed, Rebekah helped Jacob deceive Isaac into blessing him instead of Esau. She put goatskins on Jacob's hands and neck to imitate Esau's hairy skin. When Isaac touched it, he blessed Jacob, thinking it was really Esau.

Rebekah's deception caused strife between Esau and Jacob. Many years later, however, Esau forgave Jacob. Rebekah sometimes thought God needed her help. She favored Jacob over Esau and helped Jacob deceive Isaac. Her trickery led to a split between the brothers that has caused turmoil to this day.

Impatience and lack of trust made Rebekah interfere with God's plan. She did not consider the consequences of her action. When we step out of God's timing, we can sometimes cause a disaster we have to live with.

The inability to bear a child is a common theme in the Bible. In ancient times, barrenness was considered a disgrace. But time and again, we see these women having great faith in God, and God rewards them with a child.

**Elizabeth** was such a woman. Both she and her husband Zechariah were old, she past child-bearing years, yet she conceived through the grace of God. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah the news in the temple, then made him mute because he did not believe.

Just as the angel foretold, Elizabeth conceived. While she was pregnant, Mary, the expectant mother of Jesus, visited her. The baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy



on hearing Mary's voice. Elizabeth gave birth to a son. They named him John, as the angel had commanded, and at that moment Zechariah's power of speech returned. He praised God for his mercy and goodness.



Their son became John the Baptist, the prophet who foretold the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth was sad but never became bitter because of her barrenness. She had enormous faith in God her entire life. She appreciated God's mercy and kindness. She praised God for giving her a son. Our God is a God of surprises. Sometimes, when we least expect it, he touches us with a miracle and our life is changed forever.

*Mary* was a young girl, probably only about 12 or 13 years old when the angel Gabriel came to her. She had recently become engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. Mary was an ordinary Jewish girl, looking forward to marriage. Suddenly her life would forever be changed. Mary was fearful and troubled in the presence of the angel. She could never have expected to hear the most incredible news — that she would have a child, and her son would be the Messiah. Although she could not comprehend how she would conceive the Savior, she responded to God with belief and obedience.



Although Mary's life held great honor, her calling would demand great suffering as well.

God knew that Mary was a woman of rare strength and obedience. She was the only human being to be with Jesus throughout his entire life — from his birth until his death. She gave birth to him as her baby and watched him die as her Savior. Mary also knew the Scriptures. When the angel appeared and told her the baby would be God's Son, Mary replied, "I am the Lord's servant ... may it be to me as you have said." "She knew of the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah.



Mary must have known that her submission to God's plan would cost her. If nothing else, she knew she would be disgraced as an unwed mother. She must have thought that Joseph would divorce her, or worse yet, he might even have her put to death by stoning. Mary may not have considered the full extent of her future suffering. She may not have imagined the pain of watching her beloved child bear the weight of sin and die a terrible death on the cross. Still, she willingly submitted to God's plan.

Source: About.com

## Celebrating Pentecost



Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit descended onto Jesus' disciples. While they were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the disciples saw flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began talking in many languages. As a result, the disciples were able to share the good news of Jesus in the native tongues of all the pilgrims assembled in the city.

Even today, the power of the Holy Spirit fuels the "flame" that ignites Christians' outreach efforts. Only by the Spirit's power can we know Christ and make him known throughout the world. That's why we celebrate Pentecost — the birthday of the Church — so that we might be transformed and empowered to go out into the world and make Christ known in word and deed. Let us join together in prayer that God's Spirit might light a flame within each one of us — within this church — so that we might be light for the world.

Poet William Blake (1757-1827), who's been described as a passionate, Pentecost kind of person, wrote this poem about the Spirit's power:

*Unless the eye catch fire,  
The God will not be seen.  
Unless the ear catch fire,  
The God will not be heard.  
Unless the tongue catch fire,  
The God will not be named.  
Unless the heart catch fire,  
The God will not be loved.  
Unless the mind catch fire,  
The God will not be known.*



The Session has asked all members **NOT** to park on the grass in front of the church. We are damaging sprinkler heads and the lawn under the trees by the weight of our cars. There is ample parking in the back of the church. Please help us save the grass! Thanks

**We'll be back soon.**

First Sunday Lunch is taking a summer break so no lunch in June and August. However, we will host an Independence Day Sunday Lunch on July 3. We will continue First Sunday Lunches beginning in September.

## Prayer List

Troy, Sarah & Aiden Smithson, Cynthia Cullen, Candy & Ben Venable, Margaret & Terry Zittel, Helen Allen, Charlie Allen, Rey & Josette Bulnes, Bob & Bobbi Chaffee, Ken, Sammy & Allison (Edwards) Cooley, Harry & Ginny Ellis, Lona Elly

### May Birthdays

15 Terry Zitek  
27 Walter Elly  
29 Jon Elly  
30 Jen Elly

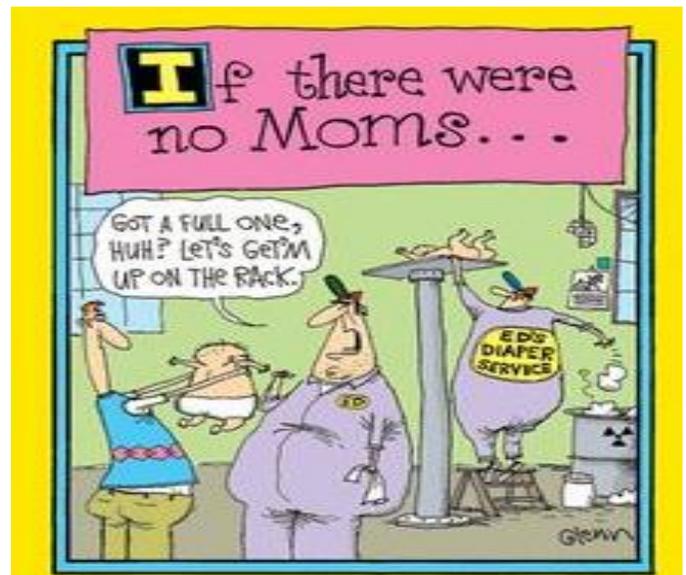
### May Anniversaries

15 Margaret & Terry Zitek  
29 Josette & Rey Bulnes

*Need another reason to celebrate?  
Here are other days in May...*

- 1 May Day, Loyalty Day, Mother Goose Day  
Save the Rhino Day
- 2 Baby Day, Brothers and Sisters Day
- 3 Lumpy Rug Day, National Teachers Day  
(Tuesday of the first full week of May),  
World Press Freedom Day
- 4 Bird Day, National Candied Orange Peel Day  
Renewal Day, Star Wars Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo, National Hoagie Day  
Oyster Day
- 6 Beverage Day, International Tuba Day  
(first Friday in May), Military Spouses Day  
(Friday before Mother's Day) National Tourist  
Appreciation Day, National Nurses Day  
No Diet Day, Space Day (first Friday in May)
- 7 Birth Mother's Day (Saturday before Mother's Day)  
National Tourism Day
- 8 Iris Day, Mother's Day (second Sunday in May)  
No Socks Day, V-E Day, World Red Cross Day /  
World Red Crescent Day
- 9 Lost Sock Memorial Day
- 10 Clean up Your Room Day
- 11 Eat What You Want Day National Receptionist  
Day (the second Wednesday in May) School  
Nurses Day (the Wednesday during Nurse's  
Week) Twilight Zone Day
- 12 Fatigue Syndrome Day, International Nurses  
Day, Limerick Day,
- 13 Blame Someone Else Day (first Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>  
of the year.) Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> – (the only one in  
2016) Frog Jumping Day, Leprechaun Day
- 14 Dance Like a Chicken Day, International  
Migratory Bird Day (the second Saturday in  
May) National Train Day- (date varies)
- 15 National Chocolate Chip Day, Police Officer's  
Memorial Day
- 16 Love a Tree Day, National Sea Monkey Day  
Wear Purple for Peace Day
- 17 Pack Rat Day
- 18 International Museum Day, No Dirty Dishes Day  
Visit Your Relatives Day

- 19 Boy's Club Day
- 20 Be a Millionaire Day, National Bike to Work  
Day (third Friday of month) Pick Strawberries Day
- 21 Armed Forces Day (third Saturday of month),  
National Memo Day, National Waiters and  
Waitresses Day
- 22 Buy a Musical Instrument Day, World Goth Day
- 23 Lucky Penny Day
- 24 National Escargot Day, Victoria Day(Canada)  
(usually the 24<sup>th</sup>)
- 25 National Missing Children's Day, National Wine  
Day, Tap Dance Day
- 26 Sally Ride Day
- 27 Sun Screen Day
- 28 Amnesty International Day, International Jazz  
Day (Saturday of Memorial Day weekend)
- 29 Learn About Composting Day
- 30 Memorial Day (last Monday of month.), Water a  
Flower Day
- 31 National Macaroon Day, Save Your Hearing  
Day, World No Tobacco Day



## Just Another Day on the Bayshore 6009 Sherwood Avenue

And the Lion Shall Lie Down with the Lamb

