



The Christmas of my fifth year of life I received from my Great Aunt Marie in St. Paul, Minnesota, whom I'd never met, a very heavy box, for which dad had to pay extra postage that didn't please him very much. Ah, but wait, this is the Mother's Day month—dad's and aunts really don't count. Well, Aunt Marie was a mother, and she was my mother's name sake.

In the December Breezes I'll tell you about the Christmas she Greyhound herself to spend the holiday with my family and me in warm and sunny Long Beach, California. As you'll find out, Aunt Marie was really my mother's aunt and my grandmother's sister. She was widowed and her husband had left her with a Red Goose shoe shop in St. Paul, Minnesota.

On that particular Christmas morning the Aunt Marie box under the tree out intrigued me more than any thing else. When mom, who always doled out the gifts, set the heavy box in front of me to open, well I was just about besides myself. Off came the brown mailing paper, off came the ribbon and bow, off came the fancy Santa paper—and there it was, a large box with a colorful label announcing it's contents—"Noah's Ark! With male and female animals of 15 species." All cut from some kind of Norwegian wood that cost dad "Very nearly ten dollars in extra postage!" In my collection of Mom Memorabilia was a snipping from her church bulletin, that reminded me of my Noah's Ark Christmas gift from Aunt Marie

Lessons in Following from Noah

- o Don't miss the boat.
- o Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- o Plan, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- o Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.
- o Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job at hand.
- o Build your future on high ground.
- o For safety's sake travel in pairs.
- o When you're stressed, float awhile.
- o No matter the storm, when you are with God there's always a rainbow waiting.

For sake of accuracy, an OHNazer (I think it was Kay Patterson) left a nicely typed copy of the same piece on the office desk. Such contributions are appreciated. Oh yes, and thanks for mothers who have provided us with so much more than aunts. Pmm

Overheard in the Foyer

"Is your mom or dad military?"

"Yep."

"Which one?"

"Navy."

"No, I mean which parent."

"Mom."

"How do ya do Mother's Day then?"

"Dad says every day is Mother's Day."

"Boy, that's an awful lot of flowers to buy."

PB's

Current



Why Communion?

There is a story told of a little church that had an unusual ritual every Sunday morning. When they sang the Doxology they stood, turned to the right facing a blank white wall and sang. Every Sunday without fail they did this. A newcomer to the church was puzzled by this and asked, "Why do you do this?" No one knew. The only answer they could come up with was, "we've always done it this way." That answer did not satisfy the newcomer. Other people were asked the same question. Finally an elderly man who had gone to church longer than anyone else remembered the reason. It seems that at one time they didn't have hymnals and the words to this song were painted on the large white wall. Everyone stood, turned to the right facing the wall and sang. Over the years the words faded and the wall was repainted numerous times yet no one remembered the significance for standing and turning toward the wall.

Often we lose the real significance of why we do certain things such as partaking of the Lord's Supper. Just what is the significance of communion for us in the 21st century? We live in a fast-paced technological society where we rush through our days failing to look back at the reasons why. We just go through the motions and go on to something else. We don't often stop to think about the meaning behind things that are a part of our worship. It's always been DONE THAT WAY. Can we give an explanation for it?

What is included in the New Covenant that we are remembering? What exactly does he want us to remember?

1. Forgiveness from our sins--Ephesians 1:7 "in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..."

2. Peace with God--Romans 5:1 "...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. Reconciliation with God--II Corinthians 5:19 "All this is from God who reconciles us to himself through Christ."

4. Right standing with God--II Corinthians 5:21 "God made himself who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

5. Access to God--Ephesians 2:18 "for through Him we have access to the Father."

6. Liberty and Freedom from the devil's power in our lives. Gal. 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (Also see Hebrews 2:14).

7. Christ's intercession for us--Hebrews 5:16 "Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Also see Hebrews 2:17, 18).

May you find all this and more as you walk with Jesus. Remember, you are loved!

Pastor Ben



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For Sunday Sermons & Info

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JUST BLEW IN . . .



News from the pews

From **Whidbey News-Times**. March 30: **Zack Aketch** [son of Alamash Aketch is a Rotary Club of Oak Harbor 's Student of the Month for March. Aketch is junior class president at Oak Harbor High School and president of the Students Against Destructive Decisions Club. Additionally, he is a member of DECA, Link, and Student-to-Student clubs. He is also an honor student and has taken many Advancement Placement classes. In sports , he is a member of the varsity wrestling team. He is also the 2015 Student Entrepreneur Challenge grand prize winner. For OHNazers: He's a faithful member of our youth group and worship congregation.

Baby Bottle Time: Pregnancy Care Clinic contribution bottles Were given out on Mother's Day Sunday. Your checks, bills, and loose change will help scores of Oak Harbor and neighboring Island women with their pregnancy needs. That cottage over on Midway (next to Whidbey Playhouse) is testimony to the sanctity of life. We as born-again believers must support this caring ministry. Bring back your baby bottle full to running over on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19.

Our Cover Girl. Be sure to check the office window (inside) for our own **Gladys Tassie**, who's on the cover of this month's Regency on Whidbey newsletter.

OHNaz Sun Valley Laborers. According to the featured story on page ___, there were 18 folks from our church working hard last month at our American Indian school just out outside Holbrook in Northern Arizona. They were (in no special order):

Pastor Ben and Lisa. Steve and Claudia Talmadge, Kay Paterson, Jim and Sandi Murdy, Brian and Merrie Pickens, Michael and Alicia McGee (project coordinator), Rich and Judy Madison, Jerry and Kathy Liggett.



OHNaz Seniors

Friendship Gatherings for May

Friday the 20th Event: A Javanese Dinner and movie evening. You'll get a call from Kay Patterson with info about the ingredient you're to bring. Drinks will be provided. The film is that wonderful one man performance by actor Dean Jones (star of the Herbie VW movies) titled, "St. John on Patmos." Guarantee you'll like it, or you admission price will be cheerfully refunded. Also, bring a greeting card (and pen) on which you can write a farewell to Skip Townsend. Please RSVP Kay Patterson (675-4875). **Location:** Church Fireside Room. **Time: 6:00 pm.** You'll get your food assignment then. Gonna be fun!

Tuesday the 24th Event: Chuck and Jacque's Mystery Lunch. **Location:** Wouldn't you like to know?! **Time:** We leave the church at noon! As Spanish speakers would say, "We'll leave 'En la punta.'" Which means "On the nose!"

Looking Ahead Our June Gatherings is set for Friday the 17th. It'll be an outdoor game night—"Croquet anyone?"-- held at JoAnne Sherrod on Bakerview Road. We may want to carpool. More later. If you'd like us, please tell Kay P. or Pmm. For July 4th we're looking for a deck or backyard from which we'll view the OH fireworks. And, on the 22nd we'll celebrate summer birthdays with cake and ice cream.

Sushi for the Murdy's

For a woman who was raised on Southern cooking, like collar greens and grits, many of us wished we could have watched Sandi Murdy, with husband Jim, bite into her first roll of raw fish sushi on their wonderful trip to Japan, February 17 to March 1. Today she passes off the experience as if it really wasn't *that* bad.

The occasion was a visit with daughter Jessica, son-in-law Will, and three grand-daughters, Payton (9), Harlyn (6), and Jynsyn (4) Bustillo at Fussa Air Force Base.

When asked about the flight over Sandi's response was predictable, in her always positive way of thinking: "We had a great flight to Tokyo. It was about ten hours, made more comfortable because of the seats we had; leg and elbow room, entertainment at our fingertips, and tasty meals.

Pmm: Did you arrive with much jet lag?

Murdys: No, the flight crew recommended we drink lots of water, which we did. It worked! Coming home was a different matter, though. Because parking is so difficult in Tokyo, Jessi took a bus to meet us, and together we bussed to Yokoto and their home.

Pmm: No grandgirls to meet you?

Murdys: No, our coming was a well-kept secret. And what a surprise it was!

Pmm: I bet you have a load of fun and learning adventures.

Murdys: Lots of our fun and learning experiences were all wrapped together. We took us all to Disney Sea in Tokyo—really got a kick out of hearing Mr. PotatoHead singing in Japanese. Riding on their train and subway system was an adventure in itself.

Pmm: Any food adventures?

Murdys: We were able to try all sorts of foods that neither of us had ever seen before. Besides sushi, there was ramens and and a Japanese curry yhat we enjoyed. A side note, many of our American candy bars are available there, but some of them have a bit of a twist, like Kit-Kats with a green tea flavor. Oh yes, we also learned tipping is not considered mannerly in Japan. A waiter would be insulted if one was offered.

Pmm: Tell us about your church adventure.

Murdys: We were able to go to church with the family every Sunday. They worship with a small Japanese/American Baptist congregation—Canto Baptist Church. Everyone there treated us like family. We even got to attend a potluck meal that was a lot like ours. We especially enjoyed worship services where we got to sing in Japanese and English—we alternated languages. The sermon was in both languages. The church is currently in need of a pastor, so we are joining our kids in praying that they will find one.

Pmm: What are some fast memories that stand out in your minds.

Murdys: There's so much stuff, like walking around our kids' town of Fussa . . . Everyone so friendly and welcoming and helpful . . . Most Japanese are able to communicate some in English because it's part of the school curriculum . . . narrow streets with the front doors opening right on to the street . . . When purchasing an item in the store, you don't hand currency to the cashier, you place it in a small tray . . . Bicycles, trains, and feet are the main modes of transportation . . . You never see people eating on the street . . . Recycling is the norm; the Japanese are very eco-conscious . . . A beautiful memory: Mt. Fuji in the distance on our way back to the airport. . . A sad and at the same time fulfilling memory: having to say goodbye.



The reason for the Murdy visit

**You can't escape
U.S. enterprises**



**Disney By the Sea
With Sandi's dear
granddaughters**



**Sunday School bus parked
outside the Japanese/
English Baptist church the
Murdy's attended.**

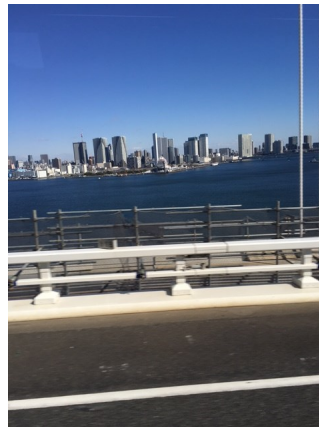
Japan fire plugs



A Jim Murdy Favorite



**Find McDonalds in
this shot**



A modern Japanese Skyline

OHNaz at the the Sun Valley Native American Christian Academy

You can't help but lose your heart to those kids shooting hoops in the gym or giggling out on the playground. The unfortunate cliché picturing Navaho American Indians as stoic and uncommunicative, or as sidekicks to heroic white cowboys soon, dissipate when you spend a week on the reservation campus of Native American Christian Academy. Such was the case for 17 OHNazers, when they showed up in Sun Valley, Arizona for a heap of roll-up-the-sleeves labor, and heart to heart friendship making.

Sunday, May 1 much of the crew was back for worship, which included a video edited by Brian Pickens and enthusiastic reports by project leader Michael McGee and Claudia Talmadge. Claudia's message was directed more toward how we can support this boarding school for boys and girls; grades 3rd-8th. Current plans call for the addition of high school grades. Much of the work by our OHNaz laborers was in preparation for this expansion. The support needed by NACA is in the form of saving Campbell soup labels. Financial help is always thankfully received. Our church senior adult organization is interested in participating in the school's goal of finding 5,000 individuals or groups that will give \$10 per month, which will supply the spiritual, academic and physical needs of the children of Native American Christian Academy.

