

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

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September 1785

The Boston convention provided the following collect to be used during every session of the General Court:

Most Gracious God, we humbly beseech thee, as for this Commonwealth in general, so especially for the General Court at this time assembled, that thou would'st be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy Church, the safety, honor and welfare of thy people, that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavors, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations.

These, and all other necessaries, for them, for us and thy whole Church, we humbly beg in the name and mediation, O Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen*.

(Food for thought... Happy 4th of July!)



Note from the editor:

There will be **no** Choir practice on **July 5th**. The last Choir practice of the Summer will be **July 12th** at **7:00PM**. Choir practices will resume in September.

50th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday, July 14th – 10:00AM

BEACON DEADLINE: For the August issue – Wednesday morning, **July 18**, **2007**.

July 29th is Change-over Sunday.

(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Annual Conference After-Thoughts

"Celebrating Diversity and Unity in Christ" was the conference theme of the 2007 annual conference that ended last week. I had been looking forward to attending the conference because I was particularly interested in how the theme was incorporated into this four day event.

Participants of the annual conference were divided into two groups; clergy members made up one group and lay members the other. These two groups met separately before they began the conference together. These meetings are called sessions. During the clergy session new ordination candidates are introduced and voted in. Before the vote each candidate is asked to give his/her "three minute sermon" before the body of clergy members. One of the candidates clarified in her "three minute sermon" the meaning of diversity for me. The idea of diversity emerged, in my opinion, as a result of the recognition that the make up of local congregations have become increasingly diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, etc. However, this candidate went beyond this apparent reality. For her, meaning of diversity is found in what a local church does rather than in the congregational make up. For instance, regardless of the make up of a particular local congregation, diversity means working cooperatively with other diverse groups in the community to address issues that they face together in the community.

During a clergy session break I went through the packet that I picked up at the registration and I found the idea of diversity was incorporated into the new Roll Call Card. Every clergy member is required to fill out Roll Call Card. The Roll Call card is a way to update clergy information for the coming year regarding the new local church appointments. Something new this year was that clergy was required to identify his/her ethnicity, and pre-determined classifications were given. These included for example, African-American, Asian, Caucasian, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, etc. I wrote in Korean. But I wondered whether this would accurately describe who I am. I felt "Korean American" would describe who I am more accurately.

Basically there are two dimensions as far as I understand identity. On the one hand, there is how others see me, and on the other hand, how I see myself. Here, seeing is an act of defining. This means classification is defining. For instance, I am defined as Korean, but I define myself Korean-American. Recognition of this discrepancy is critical. I prefer Korean-American as my self-definition. This is how I experience myself and how I feel real about myself.

Culturally speaking, it has become increasingly ambiguous for me to talk about who I am. I left Korea and came to the United States in 1974. "Korea" that I know is the Korea that I used to know more than thirty years ago. And the Korea proper has changed so much in so many ways that I would feel I am a foreigner if I returned to Korea today. There I want to define myself Korean, but I would be defined Korean-American.

I decided to share these thoughts to illustrate how this issue of diversity is related to a person individually as well as to a congregation collectively. In other words, it is both pervasive and complex issue that does not have an easy solution. Thus affirming cultural diversity and finding unity in a local church will continue to be a challenge that cannot be avoided.

Peace to You All,

Chansoo



▶ "Make a JOYFUL noise ..."

Choir rehearsal is **cancelled** for Thursday **July 5**, and the Choir will have its last rehearsal of the Summer on **Thursday**, **July 12**th at **7:00 p.m.**. Heartfelt **THANKS** to everyone who lent a voice this year and have a GREAT rest of the Summer!!!

► The 50th Anniversary Celebration is Almost Here!!

But let's begin with **Friday**, **July 13th**. **Set-up** for the anniversary the next day will begin on **Friday** at **6:00PM**. There's lots to do and we need lots of people to help. Please come.

Then, the long-awaited day is here...final preparations begin at 8:00AM with the actual celebration starting at 10:00AM. So many of you have devoted your time, talent and resources to make this day a success and now is the time to sit back and enjoy it. If you were unable to help with the preparations or planning, please help with the clean-up. Your help is sooo appreciated!!

► Souvenir Anniversary Program

If you were unable to have your picture taken previously after church service, Laine Sazon will be taking pictures again on July 1st and July 8th. Please see her after Worship. A minimum \$5.00 donation is appreciated to defray the cost of printing.



► The Office

Rhonda McDonald is Baaaccckkk!

► Youth and Children Musical Presentation

The Youth and Children will practice for their Musical Presentation at the 50th Anniversary Celebration on **Friday**, **July 6th** and **Thursday**, **July 12th** at **6:00PM** in the **Sanctuary**.

► Youth Confirmation Classes

Youth Confirmation Classes continue in July, Monday thru Friday, July $2^{nd} - 6^{th}$ and July $9^{th} - 13^{th}$ at 10:00AM in the **Sanctuary**.

Happy Birthday Wishes to...

07/2 George Chow

07/5 Shirley Macemon

07/6 Alex Rovere

07/8 Stacey Anderson

07/10 Cliveden Haas

07/18 John Babbel

07/18 Kristen Middleton

07/20 Sue Babbel

07/22 Lelaine Tanciangco

07/31 William Middleton

07/31 Bill, Jr. Middleton



Happy Anniversary!

07/08 Cliveden and Guy Haas

07/16 Vennie and Herbert Holloway

07/16 Evelyn and William Middleton

07/26 Alex Walker and Catherine Deppe

Income and Expenses *May 2007*

INCOME

	May
Offerings	\$3,721.09
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 4,168.85
Special Giving	\$634.47
TOTAL	\$ 8,524.41

EXPENSES

	May
Mission & Outreach	\$ 1,235.99
Operating Expense	\$ 2,258.01
Pastor and Staff	\$ 4,942.76
TOTAL	\$ 8,436.76

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$35,574.18
Designated funds	\$10,525.39



<u>Change-Over Sunday</u> occurs on July 29 this month. The Milpitas Food Pantry and the San Jose Family Shelter are the two very important programs that these donations support. This ministry makes a difference for so many. Please remember this essential offering and *Thank you* for your contributions.

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Join us for a weekly gathering to exercise "centering prayer." We will begin on Monday, July 9th from 12:00 to 12:45 in the Sunnyhills' sanctuary. The prayer group will be led by Karin White, pastor at St. Josephs and both congregations are welcome to participate. Daislyn Pease will also provide whatever assistance she can. For those of you unfamiliar with centering prayer,

Centering Prayer is a method of prayer, which prepares us to receive the gift of God's presence. This was traditionally called contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is the opening of mind and heart - our whole being - to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words and emotions. Centering Prayer facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer — verbal, mental or affective prayer — into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God.

Contemplative prayer is a process of interior transformation. A restructuring of consciousness takes place which empowers one to perceive, relate, and respond with increasing sensitivity to the divine presence in, through, and beyond everything that exists.

Thomas Keating

Come and Get it! Coffee or Tea

We have received a new shipment of Equal Exchange products. This activity not only supports the coffee growers but is also serves as a fund-raiser for our church. The prices are "Cost plus" so just pay what you can over cost.

Thanks for Supporting this Great Cause, Ann Zeise, The Coffee Addict



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

