

September 2007

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Chansoo Lee

Cel
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Visit us on the Web!

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Back to School...

In last month's Beacon there was a trivia question about symbols that went like this:
Which one of the following four is not a Christian symbol?

- A) Owl
- B) Rooster
- C) Anchor
- D) Elephant

Well it was somewhat of a trick question, because they are all Christian symbols. In a mystic sense, the night-owl signifies Christ. (from the Aberdeen Bestiary) Christ loves the darkness of night because he does not want sinners – who are represented by darkness – to die but to be converted, and live. The Rooster is the indication of the dawn. The 'Dawn' is one of the titles for Christ. It is commonly used as a general symbol of hope.

The Anchor represents God's commitment to us. Hebrews 6:19 – This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches behind the curtain and into the most holy place.

And last but certainly not least, the Elephant. The male and female elephant together represent Adam and Eve.

Did you know all those?



Note from the Editor:

Choir practices resume in September. **September 6th at 7:00 p.m.** to be precise.

On **September 9th at 7:00 a.m.** there will be a community Breakfast hosted by the Lion's Club, before church, in **Jones Hall**.

WRAP will meet after Worship on **September 16th**.

BEACON DEADLINE: For the October issue – Wednesday, **September 19th, 2007**.

September 30th is Change-over Sunday. (Please see Page 3 for more calendar details.)



Church Financing through Rents and Overcoming Dependency

In our annual conference there is a rule known as “50/50 rule.” It is used to categorize churches. Churches having less than a fifty Sunday worship attendance and fifty contributing families are considered small churches. It has not been formally adapted, but it is a rule of thumb when the cabinet, for instance, discusses small church situations. I do not have the exact figure however, a significant number of the churches in our annual conference fall under this category. And many small churches rent their church spaces and facilities to outside groups as a church income source. At Sunnyhills, roughly thirty five percent of our annual budget is covered by rental income.

It is not difficult to see that this has been a natural outcome. Local churches, for instance, need to finance their budget every year. With declining membership, they need income sources other than membership contribution. Usually, education buildings are not used during the weekdays; so they decide to rent them out. Sanctuaries are also rented out on Sundays. It has been a trend that they are rented out to congregations formed by immigrants who usually continue to rent until they have grown enough to get their own places.

One of the downsides of this “tenant-landlord” situation is: Unknowingly, small churches become financially dependant on this relationship. As long as the church has its own development plan, or contingency plan, this does not apply. But, if they do not, then they may have in fact, lost control over their own future.

Let us consider our own situation at Sunnyhills. What happens if Milpitas Parent Preschool stops operating at Sunnyhills for different reasons? What happens if the three Episcopal congregations move to different locations, because the current space available does not address their needs as their membership grows?

As we continue to engage ourselves in the visioning process, it is important to have an accurate understanding regarding the situation we are in as a small church. It is important for us to recognize that under the current arrangement, Sunnyhills has developed a dependency on the current rental incomes. As a result, we have much less control over our own situation. This fact makes it absolutely crucial to have our own plan in place, if we want to have control over our future.

We need to have our own plan in place, regarding how we are going to use the space.

Something to think about,

Chansoo



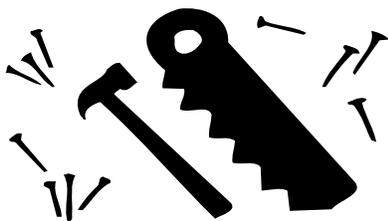
► **WRAP it up!**

WRAP will be held directly after worship service, **Sunday, September 16th**.



► **Lunch Bunch**

Lunch Bunch will gather for Chinese food at Liou's House on **September 23rd at Noon**.



► **Trustees**

The next workday will be held by the Trustees on **Saturday, September 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Work will continue to focus on fascia replacement and painting. ***Please plan to attend.*** We accomplish so much when we all work together.

► **Here Comes The Choir...**

Our lovely voices of celebration and Praise start meeting again for the 2007-2008 year on **Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m.** We experienced a wonderful combined choir at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. We plan to bring all those voices (plus others) together again for a few special occasions this season. Please come to see and hear what we have planned for this year.



► **Youth Confirmation Classes**

The Youth Confirmation Classes will be held on Saturdays, at **2:00 p.m.** beginning **September 8, 2007** in the **church office**. Thanks again to all family, friends and members at Sunnyhills UMC for their continued support. Here's to another year of enlightenment and challenges together.



► **Change-Over Sunday is**

September 30th!!

**Happy Birthday
Wishes to...**

- 09/05 Eric Cruz
- 09/12 Ruth Logsdon
- 09/15 Erin Cruz
- 09/15 Rolf Haas
- 09/15 Ron Ray
- 09/16 Joe Martin (Jamie)
- 09/17 Anna Phan
- 09/21 Karen Schreifels
- 09/22 Warren Scott
- 09/25 Isak Larsen
- 09/26 Dee Bragg



Happy Anniversary!

- 09/15 Ann and Fred Zeise
- 09/21 Aida and Pablo Cruz
- 09/23 Emil and Laine Sazon

**Income and Expenses
July 2007**

INCOME

	<i>July</i>
Offerings	\$ 4,091.42
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 3,384.76
Special Giving	\$ 1,265.95
TOTAL	\$ 8,742.13

EXPENSES

	<i>July</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 1,295.99
Operating Expense	\$ 2,707.85
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,523.74
TOTAL	\$ 9,527.58

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$ 36,241.86
Designated funds	\$ 11,341.68



GREAT JOY TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE!



I remember when we started planning our 50th church anniversary some of us are so skeptical about the expenses that will be involved since there was actually no budget for this event. And yet that didn't stop us to make it grand and meaningful to us especially to our kids because of our love to our God, to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to our very own church, The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church. We did not work for the sake of our selves but for the sake of Jesus ministry. It is with great joy to share with all of you that we actually did raised the amount of \$1,657.25 during our fund raiser for our 50th church anniversary. This amount is apart from the non-monetary contributions you brought such as food and materials (banners, programs, kitchen materials, etc.) And of course, your precious time in preparing this big event! So add everything up, it's amazing to think about all we have made together as small church so how much more if we are to build BIGGER ministry outside our church community. (Laine Silag-Sazon)

MORE BLESSINGS.....



I do not need to mention his or her name whoever initiated working our church chairs. But it cannot be ignored that these are the works of people who truly dedicated their time so that each of us may have a comfortable chair during our worship together every Sunday. Some of them even used their own money to finish repairing all the chairs. So to defray at least some of the expenses, we continue to collect donations. Currently we have collected \$ 325.00. Thank you to the family of Thelma Wilber who are willing to share this amount from the Bob Wilber Memorial Fund. Imagine how much we will spend if we are to purchase 100 new chairs(at least \$60 per chair)! Again, as a small church, we should be grateful for all the faithful (not just members) church family and friends!

September 9th, Mark Your Calendars! Busy!! Busy!! Busy!!



Wow! Mark your calendars now so you won't forget. September 9th is going to be a VERY busy day here at Sunnyhills UMC. **First**, beginning at **7:00a.m.** the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association will gather for breakfast in Jones Hall. This month will be hosted by the Lion's club and all are welcome. Then we will recognize **UMC Student Day**, by collecting a special offering during **Worship**.

We will then cap off the day with a **Back-to-School Potluck**, picnic at **11:30a.m..** Please sign up after worship, on the sheet in the back to bring a dish.



Words from our Youth Confirmation Class



Once again I would like to thank every one of you for giving me the opportunity to minister to our youth through Youth Faith Confirmation class. It has been a privilege to co-teach this class with our pastor. As most of you know, this ministry prepares our young people to decide on their own to become a Christian believer and to become a full member of The United Methodist Church.

Teaching all the historical backgrounds of our faith and giving them all the information, tools and knowledge in understanding the Bible may seem to be an easy task but what really challenges (I have to admit and also worries) me is the task of allowing them to experience God in a very personal way. And this is where parents, the sponsors, and the church come together in prayers, in support with one another, in encouragement, and in your presence—just to share your faith story and be a living witness that you did find love, peace, joy and the salvation that Jesus has promised us until the end of our lives.

As you minister to our confirmands I hope you will discover that you will also be ministered from them--and that is very rare to experience!

On behalf of our Children and Youth Ministry, I would like to recognize the primary sponsors of our confirmands this year and they are Mr. & Mrs. Bob Roll and Mr. & Mrs. Erik Larsen who did not hesitate to share their life with our youth's faith journey this year!

In His service,

Laine Silag-Sazon
Children and Youth Coordinator 2007

In Loving Memory...

Bob Wilber, who joined Sunnyhills UMC with his family in November 1974, passed away on July 20, 2007. A memorial service was held at Sunnyhills UMC on July 25, 2007. The following pages are a collection of remembrances of Bob. This issue of the Beacon is dedicated to the memory of Bob Wilber.

To the Family of Bob Wilber and the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church. WE LOVE YOU!

Bob remains in our memories as a faithful Christian and an active part of Sunnyhills United Methodist Church. His gentle teasing often brought smiles and laughter. We especially recall his pleasure and encouragement as we gathered to create ornaments to decorate the Congregational Christmas tree. Thank you for the opportunity to share. Again, We Send Our Love,

Donald and Eugenia Allen Egbert



My Reflections on Knowing Bob Wilber

By Reverend Marilyn Ray

When I arrived to serve in Sunnyhills United Methodist Church as pastor, Bob Wilber was one of the persons to first greet and welcome me. He began by sharing his love of creating the designs for the worship banners and Sanctuary visuals. He introduced me to his design team, Jo Roll and Thelma Wilber. His eyes twinkled as he described the process of the visual creations.

Bob led me into the Sanctuary to see if I'd like the visual the team had created for the first Sunday I'd lead worship. I remember viewing it. It was a ship traveling on some waves. The words said, "Life is a Journey, not a destination."

I absolutely loved this creation and we spent some time sharing some thoughts on our journeys of life.

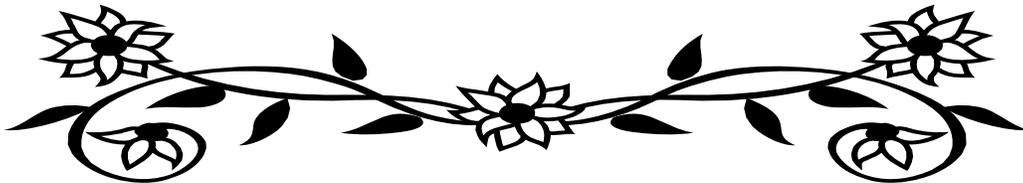
That day began so many times for Bob's sharing of his artistic gifts which always intersected with his life experiences. I always appreciated the energy and devotion that emerged in those gifts.

Bob was always a hard working, dependable worker around the church. When things would need fixing, Bob would be there working alone or with others to solve practical problems. No problem was too difficult to solve and see through to completion. When things needed to be done Bob Wilber would notice and "pitch-in"!

Bob always spoke his truth. He was outspoken and strong in his opinions even when others differed with him. Sometimes, Bob would appear "gruff" on the outside, yet when he led the way to establish the "363" Fund for the homeless and needy, I saw how big a heart Bob had. He had a compassion for those who were needy that lighted all of our lives.

Bob Wilber was a person that touched my life. He helped me grow and change in ways I needed to grow. We often saw things from different perspectives yet I always respected the uniqueness and sincerity of Bob's voice.

I mourn the passing of Bob Wilber. I will never forget the way he tried to live his truth totally and consistently.



We will remember Bob Wilber and his cowboy boots. You never saw him in church or anytime when he was wearing a sport coat without those boots. They were so bright that it was like looking into a mirror. It was a known fact "Don't Step on My Cowboy Boots".

Jo Roll



Calendar

September

- 3 *Labor Day*
- 6 Choir
- 8 Work Party
- 9 Confirmation Class
Community Breakfast
UMC Student Day
- 10 Back to School Potluck
- 10 Centering Prayer
- 13 Choir
- 15 Confirmation Class
- 16 WRAP after Worship
- 17 Centering Prayer
- 19 *Beacon Deadline*
- 20 Choir
- 22 Confirmation Class
- 23 Lunch Bunch at Liou's House
- 24 Centering Prayer
- 27 Choir
- 29 Confirmation Class
- 30 Change Over Sunday

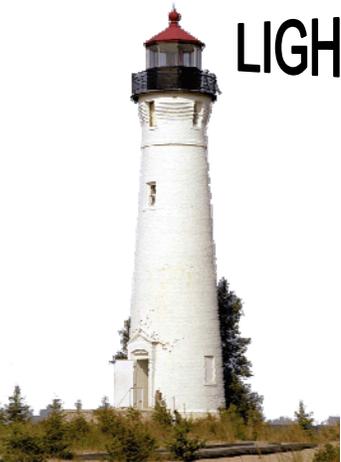
October

- 1 Centering Prayer
- 4 Choir
- 6 Trustees Meeting
- 7 Community Breakfast
- 7 World Communion WRAP
- 11 Choir
- 14 Lunch Bunch
- 15 Centering Prayer
- 18 Choir
- 21 WRAP after Service
- 22 Centering Prayer
- 25 Choir
- 28 Change-over Sunday
- 29 Centering Prayer

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