



January 2008

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Chansoo Lee

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Visit us on the Web!

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What a Difference a Year Can Make

So just what is that thing we do on the last Sunday of each month?

You know, that thing with the can and the blanket and throwing coins into it so they make a lot of noise? Well, that's **Change Over Sunday**, which started out as our **363 fund**. The 363 fund was an idea of Bob Wilber's from quite a long time ago. Bob pointed out that people give the most on two days of the year: Thanksgiving and Christmas. So on those two days, people give generously to the less fortunate. But, Bob asked, What about the other 363 days of the year?

Thus the 363 fund got started. Sunnyhills gives half of what we receive to the Milpitas Food Pantry and the other half to the San Jose Family Shelter. We used to have a can hanging by the exit door of the sanctuary, however it wasn't getting much attention and was empty most of the time. When Cathy Deppe moved to Los Angeles she told me that the church she was now going to asked people to empty out their pockets and coin purses of all their change on the last Sunday of each month. So Sunnyhills decided that was a good way to reinvigorate the 363 fund and bring it to people's attention at least one Sunday a month. It's sort of our regular monthly special offering. Change over Sunday was an impromptu name for this event. Giving your change over to God also can change someone else's life for the better. If you have a better name for it, just let us know.

For all of 2007 our giving for Change Over Sunday totaled **\$832.00**. That's a pretty respectable amount of change to make a difference. Great Job SUMC!

Daislyn Pease

Notes from the editor:

Choir will start practicing again on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 3, 2008 in the Sanctuary.

On **January 6th**, there will be a **Community Breakfast** before church, hosted by the Traffic Reduction Committee.

WRAP -- Next WRAP is scheduled for **January 13**, at **11:15 a.m.**

BEACON DEADLINE: For the February issue – Monday, **January 21, 2008**.



(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Starting Again and Fresh

A seven-session series of Bible study that I had planned with a Korean speaking group ended last Sunday. The Bible study series was intended to be a pilot program to explore the possibility of starting a Korean ethnic language ministry at Sunnyhills. On average, five persons attended each session; after the holiday break, the group will meet again for another study, which will be on Mark.

This study series was quite meaningful to me for various reasons. It was an affirmation of my work. For instance, the study brought a fresh perspective on their understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith itself. I felt quite encouraged knowing that I did repeat something the group already knew. This in turn convinced me that there was something that I could offer for the group. Also, this study forced to me to articulate in the clear terms all that I learned, understood and believed since my Sunday school year. And, this, in turn, will inform me as I plan for this coming year.

Christian life, I understand, revolves around this single purpose: to realize and expand the Kingdom of God. Here I am not advocating the idea of theocracy in today's world. It means, for me, making our world a more just and compassionate society, which represent the essence of God's rule. How do we achieve this? For Christians, by "following Jesus," and that is to say, in traditional church concept, through "discipleship" which requires learning about his teachings and making effort to practice them.

Often I feel our world and society is too complex; at times I feel powerless and that I have very little control, if any at all. To a great extent this feeling accurately reflects the reality. But, this does not mean, I should give up and forget what Christian life is about. I believe I do have an option. I can realize God's rule where I have immediate control, namely myself and my personal world. This involves how I relate with my self and those around me whom I interact everyday. Starting from there, I can expand God's rule, the rule of justice and compassion. This insight will inform as I work at Sunnyhills: I will try to keep the larger picture in mind and at the same time start where I have immediate influence.

January 1st is in fact just another date on the calendar. We may not feel anything different about New Year. But it is up to each person to make this "another" 24 hours and 365 days ahead into something special and meaningful. And I hope each and every one of us will discover the meaning of our personal life in the larger picture of God's rule.

Many blessings to you and your family in the New Year!!

Chansoo



► **Youth Confirmation Class**

The Youth Confirmation Classes will meet in January on the 5th, 12th, and 26th at 2:00PM in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Laine Sazon.

► **Trustees'**

The next **Trustees' Meeting** will be **Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 9:00AM.** We will meet in the Church Office.



A New Song in Your Heart for the New Year...

Choir rehearsals resume **Thursday evenings** in January at **6:30 p.m.** *Welcome Back*, and... *Happy New Year!*

Any one interested in joining the choir, please join us in the Sanctuary on Thursdays. We have tons of fun and are always looking for a few good smiles to lend a voice.



A Caroling, Caroling We Did Go...

On December 14, about 7 of our wonderfully melodic youth and 9 of our super spirited adults spread the cheer up and down the halls of the Mt. Pleasant Nursing Facility. It was an absolute joy to share our music and holiday cheer with the residents there. Its great to have fun and be appreciated too.



We then traveled to the homes of Julia Jones and Marilyn Ray where we sang some more and laughed a lot.

Last but not least, we made an uncharted stop in on the newest "Shut-in" of the Clan. Poor Jack Freeman had to work and couldn't join us, so we took the caroling to him. Hey, isn't that what caroling is all about anyway. Singing as you're walking. Fun was had by everyone and maybe next year, Jack can go with us.

**Happy Birthday
Wishes to...**

- 01/01 Emil Sazon
- 01/10 Don Egbert
- 01/16 Vennie Holloway
- 01/16 Joyce Johnson
- 01/17 Eugenia Allen Egbert
- 01/17 Rebecca Marcus
- 01/20 Julia Jones
- 01/22 Laurie Haas
- 01/23 Guy Haas



Church Anniversary

01/19 Anita and Reuben Valderrama

Income and Expenses
November 2007

INCOME

	<i>November</i>
Offerings	\$ 3,962.17
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 3,631.92
Special Giving	\$193.63
TOTAL	\$ 7,787.72

EXPENSES

	<i>November</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 1,155.99
Operating Expense	\$ 3,839.28
Pastor and Staff	\$ 4,823.66
TOTAL	\$ 9,818.93

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$35,246.85
Designated funds	\$12,575.61





Community Breakfast Schedule

The following is the Community Breakfast Schedule of the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association for the 2007-2008 season.

January 6, 2008
Traffic Reduction Committee
Allysson and Jim Smith

February 3, 2008
Black Caucus
Jimmie and Lana Kennon

March 2, 2008
Milpitas Post
Robert Devincenzi, Editor

April 6, 2008
Sikh Foundation
Gurdev Sandhu

May 4, 2008
Milpitas Library
Linda Arbaugh

June 1, 2008
Milpitas Parks and Recreation
Bonnie Greiner

* The Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association meet the first Wednesday of each month, in Jones Hall of the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church at 355 Dixon Road, 7:00 p.m..

*Each Sunday Breakfast time is 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m..

*All participants are responsible for food and paper items, you will be notified in advance.

*June 1st will be the last breakfast before summer break.

Herbert Holloway, Chair
(408) 262-2734

Calendar

January

- 3 Choir
- 5 Confirmation Class
- 6 Community Breakfast
- 6 Korean Bible Study at 4:00PM
- 6 Filipino Bible Study at 6:00PM
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 10 Choir
- 12 Trustees
- 12 Confirmation Class
- 13 WRAP will meet after Worship
- 13 Korean Bible Study at 4:00PM
- 14 Filipino Bible Study at 6:00PM
- 14 Centering Prayer
- 17 Choir
- 20 Korean Bible Study at 4:00PM
- 20 Filipino Bible Study at 6:00PM
- 21 Centering Prayer // *Beacon Deadline*
- 24 Choir
- 26 Confirmation Class
- 27 Change-over Sunday
- 27 Korean Bible Study at 4:00PM
- 27 Filipino Bible Study at 6:00PM

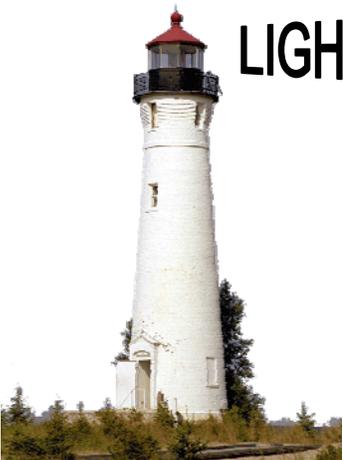
February

- 2 Confirmation Class
- 3 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 7 Choir Practice
- 9 Confirmation Class
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 14 Choir Practice
- 16 Confirmation Class
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 21 Choir Practice
- 23 Confirmation Class
- 25 Centering Prayer

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING