



December 2008

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Chansoo Lee

Cel
Church Office

(510) 325-4907
(408) 262-1486

Visit us on the Web!

www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Precious Gift

Celebrate this Christmas, the [birth](#) of God's Holy Son
Give praise and thanks for all that God has done
The miracles at this time are all too often hard to see
All of our time is spent buying presents for under the tree

Don't forget the reason behind this glorious day
Was a babe born in a manger on that blessed Christmas Day
His life was laid down for us. [Christ](#), he gave us his all
To suffer our sins for us in hopes that no one would fall

Our sins have been forgiven, all that's asked is we believe
There are no words to express the love he has for us
Remember how he suffered before he [died on the cross](#)
Worship him this Christmas fall on bended knee

Lift your voices singing praises let him be all you need
Though presents and decorations are a lot of fun
Give thanks to God this Christmas he gave the most precious gift to us,
The life of his only Son

--Stephanie Cherie Burger



Note from the editor:

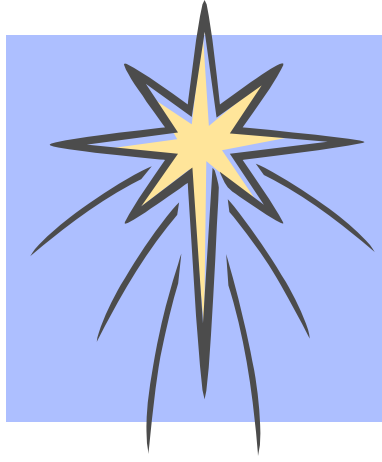
On **December 7th at 7:00 a.m.** there will be a community Breakfast hosted by the **Milpitas Police Department**, before church, in **Jones Hall**.

The next **WRAP Meeting** will be **Saturday, January 10th, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.**

BEACON DEADLINE: For the January issue – Wednesday morning, **December 17, 2008.**

December 28th is **Change-over Sunday**. 1

(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Dear Members and Friends,

For Christians, the month of December is a season of hope; we wait in anticipation for the coming of Christ during Advent, which leads to Christmas when we celebrate the coming of Christ in the birth of Jesus. But, I want to be cautious as I write this year's Christmas message. The current economic situation, for instance, warrants this. Our effort of keeping hope alive is rooted in clear sense of reality; for it is not mere wishful thinking.

The impact of the crisis on Wall Street is now being felt on "the main street." I know this first hand from what I hear from some members of the Korean language ministry. Their own businesses in the area and their sales are significantly down. Their analysis is that either the people do not have extra money to spend, or they do not want to spend because of financial uncertainty—I believe its both. I learned from a financial expert on the radio that saving is the best strategy, which is of no secret.

With the change of administration in Washington in sight, people are hoping that under the new leadership of President-Elect Obama the economy will improve. But, considering the magnitude of current economic crisis, I also believe it will, even if it does take much longer for the economy to recover than what we hear. At the same time, the overall living standard of most Americans will be lower. That is to say, we may no longer be able to afford to do all the things that we used to.

Change in economic condition affects everyone and everywhere. This we saw after 9/11. For instance, United Methodist national agencies cut their operating budget significantly. And I expect the current downturn of economy will affect local churches and their members as well.

In a crisis situation, maintaining good healthy family life is more important than ever; for family continues to be the primary social institution that provides security for its members. And it is a blessing that we wake up everyday in the morning with this knowledge.

This also applies to local church life. We need to be creative and proactive for what may lie ahead. Most importantly, we need to be clear about what we aspire to achieve, as a church, a family, a nation, and human race. I believe hope grows as much as we see the purpose of why we are "here" and "now".

With best regards,

Chansoo



► **"Oh Holy Night...The Stars are Brightly Shining..."**

Our Choir truly brings **Joy to the World** and sounds like **Angels We Have Heard on High** as they urge us to **O Come, All Ye Faithful** and witness **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**. They can't help but break the **Silent Night, Holy Night** with the musical proclamation that **Love Came Down at Christmas**. So anyone recognizing **There's a Song in the Air** are more than welcome to join the choir, by dropping in the **sanctuary** on **Thursday evenings** at **6:30PM**. Who knows, you may be the next one to **Go Tell it on the Mountain**.

► **WRAP**

The next **WRAP** meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10th at 9:00AM.



► **Lay Speakers**

The Lay Speaker for next month is:

Laine Sazon – December 28, 2008

Thanks to **Daislyn** for speaking in November and an additional thanks to all of our Lay Speakers for 2008. Your service is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing your messages next year.

► **Trustees**

The next Trustees' meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th at 9:00AM.

► **Change-Over Sunday**

is **December 28th, 2008**.. Please know your support is truly needed. As we participate in the Firefighters food and toy drive this Christmas, may we remember the Milpitas Food Pantry needs donations for food 365. Thank you all again for your endless generosity.

► **Game Nite with "P" phoods**

Come one, Come all to **Game Nite**, Saturday – December 13th at 6:00 p.m. with "P" foods. (pizza and popcorn will be provided. Who wants to bring peanut butter cookies or persimmon bread or pumpkin pie or anything else that you want to bring) Use your imagination. Come for the fun, stay for the phood.

Happy Birthday Wishes to...

- 12/05 Katherine Twite
- 12/09 Alex Walker
- 12/11 Juanita Whetstone
- 12/17 Miles Crawford
- 12/22 Malacha Martin
- 12/25 Jack Freeman
- 12/25 Mark Pereyra
- 12/27 Robert Pease
- 12/27 Simon Chow
- 12/31 Helen Phan
- 12/31 Huy Phan



Happy Anniversary!

12/16 Margaret and Warren Scott

**Income and Expenses
October 2008**

INCOME

	<i>October</i>
Offerings	\$ 3,911.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$6,995.56
Special Giving	\$ 149.03
TOTAL	\$11,055.59

EXPENSES

	<i>October</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 1,613.75
Operating Expense	\$ 1,902.08
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,057.14
TOTAL	\$ 8,572.97

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$36,381.75
Designated funds	\$19,947.53



Prayer for Our Elected Leaders

Written: 11/13/2008

Eternal and Expansive God,

Throughout history you have set apart your servants calling them forth for such a time as this.

We lift to you today those who have been called by us elected to represent the rich and poor, young and old, citizens and residents, the rainbow of ethnicities populating our cities and towns and all in between.

We have chosen these men and women to speak for us in our communities in our states, in this nation and in this one world we all call home.

We pray that as these leaders pledge to promote the greater good that they will be guided in their public and private lives by the teachings of Jesus and his church that call for right relationships between people for stewardship of the Earth and for justice that places in the forefront the needs of the hungry, poor, sick, and oppressed.

May our leaders be worthy of the trust we have placed in their hands. May you uphold them as they carry heavy responsibilities and expectations on their shoulders. We pray for their families that they will not be sacrificed to the demands of public office and that the spirit of love will reign in their homes and hearts.

We give thanks for our government for the peaceful transition of power our founders sought, and yet we need healing from the polarizing division of political campaigns. We pray for those who find both hope and fear as the results of our votes.

We pray particularly for our President-Elect Barack Obama and for the symbol he has become: for many, of possibility; for others, a threat. We pray for his physical safety in a nation where racial hatred still festers in our shameful wounds.

Gracious One, we recognize our dependence on you and on one another. Keep us always in prayer and in good will for those who give their lives to service.

Amen.

Editor's Note: In response to the November 4 elections, Cathy Warner, a lay member of the California-Nevada Annual Conference and a well known writer, penned a prayer for elected leaders. Due to the positive response the prayer received within her (San Jose) district, she has consented to share it here with the Conference. *Cathy Warner serves as Conference Lay Minister to Boulder Creek United Methodist Church. She is pursuing a Masters Degree in Creative Writing from Seattle Pacific University. Her spiritual writing blog is located at <http://holyink.blogspot.com>.*

Community Breakfast Schedule

The following is the Community Breakfast Schedule of the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association for the 2008-2009 season.

December 7, 2008
Milpitas Police Department
Dennis Graham, Chief

April 5, 2009
Sikh Foundation
Gurdev Sandhu

January 4, 2009
Traffic Reduction Committee
Allysson and Jim Smith

May 3, 2009
Milpitas Fire Department

February 1, 2009
Black Caucus
Demetress Morris,

June 7, 2009
Milpitas Parks and Recreation
President Bonnie Greiner

March 1, 2009
Milpitas Post
Robert Devincenzi, Editor

* The Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association meet the first Wednesday of each month, in Jones Hall of the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church, 355 Dixon Road, at 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 7th will be the last breakfast before summer break.

Herbert Holloway, Chair
(408) 262-2734



Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Presents...

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Lighting of the Luminaries – 6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.



**“For unto you is born, this day in the city of David
a Savior who is Christ the Lord”**

Don't forget to:

**Mark your calendar for Sunday,
December 14, 2008 directly after
Worship.**



We'll resume our charge conference with the nominations and appointments of the Leadership for the coming year. Please plan to attend.



“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me.... SCRIP so I could pay for the other 11 days!

Scrip is available for all your Christmas needs. Don't be caught unprepared for the upcoming Holidays. We can use scrip to contribute to the food and toy drive and here are some other suggestions which may help you, while you help Sunnyhills:

FOR

Candies, Cards,
Decorations and gifts

BUY SCRIP

Longs, Walgreen's

Books, cards and music
Some of the best gifts are
music

Borders, Barnes & Nobles, Amazon.com

Fashions and Christmas
gifts and décor. Coats

Lowe's, Macy's, JC Penney, T J Max/Marshall's Gap/Old Navy

Drop in for a pick-me-up
or gift cards for your
favorite paper boy, mailman,
UPS driver, anyone

Jamba Juice, Baskin Robbins, Starbucks

Gas AT STILL LOWER
PRICES. (Just in time)

Arco gas card

Celebrate with a Company
Dinner with your colleagues
At one of these great
Attractions or restaurants

AMC tickets, dinner out at Marie Callendar's,
Chevy's, Chili's, Olive Garden, etc.

Remember, in this season of giving, please continue to give back to the church by using your scrip for all those extra expenses coming your way. We'll sail through the holiday season together "giving", while the church is "getting" back from all those preparation.

Catch up to Daislyn Pease to order Scrip most Sundays after Worship.

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church is proud to participate in the following food, clothing and toy drive organized by the Milpitas Firefighters this 2008 holiday season. Please keep in mind this food and toy drive will benefit the Milpitas Food Pantry along with other organizations.



MILPITAS FIREFIGHTERS TOY PROGRAM

777 S. Main Street
Milpitas, CA 95035
501 c3 Tax ID #26-0267135



November 10, 2008

Dear Potential Donor:

The holidays are quickly approaching and it's time once again to begin thinking about the season of giving and how we can make these upcoming holidays a little bit brighter for those in our community.

The Milpitas Firefighters Local Union 1699 in cooperation with the Milpitas Fire Department, The Milpitas Food Pantry and The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring its annual Holiday Toy & Food Drive. Donations of food, clothing, cash, and new toys are needed to help benefit local organizations and needy families. This year's annual campaign will include the collection of the following items:

- **cash donations (checks made payable to Milpitas Firefighters Toy Program)**
- **canned food, (non-perishable items)**
- **new clothing (all sizes)**
- **toys for children, all ages, (new and unwrapped)**

To ensure the success of the Holiday Toy & Food Drive, we need support from the entire community, including you. Your cash donation will help the needy families in our community and make their holiday season a little brighter. Your donation will help buy gifts for older children, as we tend to receive plenty for the younger children. If you or your company would like to help the families in our community or if you have any questions, please call George Perez at (408) 891-3387 or Reggie Sutton at (408) 586-2850. If you would like to send a monetary donation please make checks payable to Milpitas Firefighters Toy Program, in care of George Perez, 777 S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035.

Thank you in advance for your support. Happy Holidays!!!

501c3 Tax ID # 26-0267135

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Perez'.

George Perez
Milpitas Fire Department
Firefighters Local Union 1699

Your gifts of any of the listed items is so appreciated. For your convenience of giving, barrels will be placed in the Sanctuary for the Sundays of November 30th, December 7th, and December 14th. Let's all pitch in and fill them up with the joy of giving.

Calendar

December

4 *Choir*

6 Trustees Meeting

7 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall

Worship

Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM

Study Help at 4:00PM

Centering Prayer

Choir Practice

Game Nite with "P" foods

13 Worship

Charge Conference regarding Leadership 2009

Study Help at 4:00PM

Centering Prayer

BEACON Deadline

17 Choir

18 Worship

Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM

Study Help at 4:00PM

24 Christmas Eve Luminary lighting at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

Worship – Change-Over Sunday

Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM

Study Help at 4:00PM

29 Centering Prayer

January 2009

4 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall

Worship

Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM

Study Help at 4:00PM

Centering Prayer

Choir Practice

8 WRAP

10 Worship

Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM

Study Help at 4:00PM

12 Centering Prayer

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING

