



February 2009

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

Love Comes Through the Eyes That See

Love comes through the eyes that see
And through the ears that hear,
For people are quite beautiful,
And words make feelings clear.



Love comes through the hands that touch
With unabashed affection,
For only skin-to-skin can love
Maintain its true direction.



Love comes through the tastes and smells
Of fresh and well-cooked food,
For in the gift of nourishment
Is much else that is good.

But though love comes through senses five,
Love comes from the heart,
For there resides the greater love
Of which ours is a part.

Note from the editor:

Our **Choir practices** **Thursdays** at **6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

On **February 1**, there will be a **Community Breakfast** before church, hosted by **The Flame Keepers**.

There will be a worship for **Ash Wednesday**, on **Wednesday, February 25, 2009**. Services will be held in the Sanctuary beginning at **6:00 p.m.** and ending at **7:00 p.m.**

Next **WRAP** is scheduled for **Saturday March 14, 2009** at **9:00 a.m.**

BEACON DEADLINE: For the March issue – Tuesday, **February 17, 2009**.



In Memoriam:

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah . . . The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, ‘I will give to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab . . . , but no one knows his burial place to this day . . . The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.(Deuteronomy)

What was it like for Moses to realize that it was time to go up to the mountain Nabo?

It was not the first time for Moses to go up to the mountains. The Lord had done so when Moses received the law for his people at Mount Sinai. At other times, when the Hebrew people faced crises in the wilderness Moses went up to the mountain to seek help from the Lord. But now this time was different. After this time, Moses knew, he would not have to climb mountains any more. For Moses, it meant his time was up; the time has come for him to rest after accomplishing an almost impossible task: freeing the Hebrew people from the oppression under the Egyptian slavery and providing the foundation for them to begin a kingdom. Though from a distance, that Moses was permitted to see the land was the confirmation by the Lord: “A job well done, Moses.”

This story reminds me of Herb. To come to think of it, it was quite possible that he knew last September he had to set out for his final ascend to the mountain. He expressed his intention to resign from the chair of Milpitas Community Breakfast—“a unique forum for civic and community members to meet and discuss topics of mutual interest”; Herb has served it for more than thirty years. And, in the following months, Herb attended Sunday services more often. Perhaps he may have felt closer to God worshipping with others.

Herb had a seizure on the Thanksgiving Day last year. Since then his condition gradually deteriorated, except for a brief period of recovery. He was at the VA hospital in his final two weeks. By this time he was on pain medication and he was unable to recognize visitors. When I visited him one afternoon, he was asleep. And I asked myself “Who was “this” person, Herb, in bed in front of me?”

I can say with confidence that Herb understood his life at least in two contexts. He understood his life in relation with God. That is, Church and faith was an integral part of his life; he guided his life according to the values and principles he found in the church. The other, he saw his life in the context of community. He saw himself not only as a member of a local church, but also a member of a community, a citizen. For him he had both, not one without the other. This was the source of Herb’s mission that guided his life: as to the purpose of Community Breakfast, he said, “We were trying to enlighten people about the things that were going on in the church and the community.”

Herb, an African American, moved with Vennie from San Francisco to Milpitas in 1958 to raise their children in 1950’s. Since then he watched his community going through changes: racially integrated, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural. He was in the middle of these changes and a catalyst for the changes. Vennie shared one of Herb’s favorite sayings which captures who he was:

There are three different kind of people, those who watch things happen, those who make things happen, and those who wonder what happened.

**Happy Birthday
Wishes to...**

- 02/01 Jeremy Mark Westover
- 02/02 Jess Tanciango
- 02/18 Pamela J. Bini
- 02/21 Robert Roll
- 02/23 Sharon Fall



Church Anniversary

02/14 Jo and Bob Roll

**Income and Expenses
2008**

INCOME

	<i>2008</i>
Offerings	\$50,501.86
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$64,674.42
Special Giving	\$2,088.42
TOTAL	\$117,264.70

EXPENSES

	<i>2008</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 22,156.01
Operating Expense	\$ 29,877.60
Pastor and Staff	\$ 62,646.13
TOTAL	\$114,679.74

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$37,860.20
Designated funds	\$20,070.51



Community Breakfast Schedule

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

February 1, 2009
Flame Keepers

April 4, 2009
Sikh Foundation
Gurdev Sandhu

March 7, 2009
Milpitas Post
Robert Devincenzi, Editor

May 2, 2009
Milpitas Fire Department

June 6, 2009
Milpitas Parks and Recreation
President Bonnie Greiner

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

*The Community Breakfast time is now **Saturdays** from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m..

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

*June 6th will be the last breakfast before summer break.

Volunteers needed... Sign-up Today.

Please take a minute after worship on Sunday to sign up in the back of the Sanctuary to help out for one of the following on Sunday mornings:

1. Ushers They greet the folks arriving for Church and hand out Bulletins. During the service, they pass the collection plates or baskets for the offering.
2. Fellowship Hour Help make coffee, juice, set out cookies or crackers (Yum, we like cookies and crackers) Paper supplies, coffee are available with a small supply of lemonade,

Thank you and God Bless.





Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

When the voters of this nation elected Barack Obama, on November 4th, to be the next President of the United States, many were responding to his promise of "change" – however that may have been defined in the mind of each voter.

Today, it is change that we have. When President Barack Obama takes the oath of office on January 20, 2009 – one day after the holiday created to honor Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – this country will have its first African-American President. It will be a day which many of us never thought would come and which most Americans, and many beyond our shores, greet with overwhelming emotion.

It may be difficult for the youngest members of our society to understand the significance of this event. For them - Praise God! - the notion that children like themselves would not be allowed to drink from the same water fountain as other children, or visit the same restroom, or sit beside them in school or any public place, simply because of the color of their skin - is incomprehensible.

For those of us who lived through that time, though, the concept is all too real – as are the memories.

Not that all of the memories are bad ones. I have spoken publicly about the thrill I experienced as a young man of 17, when my father and I stood at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963 to hear Dr. King deliver the address that gave rise to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and forever changed history.

"I have a dream," he said. "That one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all [persons] are created equal.'"

It was a dream deeply rooted in his Christian faith. A dream that "one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

"This is our hope," he said. "This is the faith that I go back to the South with With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Are we there yet? Have those "jangling discords" given way to that beautiful symphony of brotherhood? Are we measuring one another by the content of our character, rather than the color of our skin?

"A More Perfect Union"

Ten months ago, then-candidate Barack Obama delivered a speech of his own, one he titled "A More Perfect Union." The speech was in response to critics of some statements by Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who had been the Obamas' pastor. In endeavoring to explain the climate at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, and his own view of race in America, Obama spoke of his "unyielding faith in the decency and generosity of the American people" and said his own story, possible nowhere else on earth, attests to the fact that "this nation is more than the sum of its parts – that out of many, we are truly one."

Obama said one of the tasks set forth at the beginning of his campaign was "to continue the long march of those who came before us, a march for a more just, more equal, more free, more caring and more prosperous America." And said he believes deeply that "we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together – unless we perfect our union by understanding that we may have different stories, but we hold common hopes; that we may not look the same and we may not have come from the same place, but we all want to move in the same direction – towards a better future for our children and grandchildren."

The complexion of our congregations

It is notable that in The United Methodist Church, we surely do not all look the same – nor have we all come from the same place – and that is particularly true in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. In this Conference we pride ourselves on our inclusiveness. We see ourselves working to shift the reality Dr. King identified many years ago, that Sunday morning worship hour was the most segregated time in America. I celebrate the many congregations that are opening doors, opening hearts and opening minds to welcome all of our neighbors to find a home in our church.

But all of us must do more.

Most congregations in the United States still could be defined as "mono-racial," with at least 80% of their members identifying themselves with a single racial group, according to the Multiracial Congregations Project, a study by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, funded by the Lilly Endowment. Yet more than 54.3 million people told the U.S. Census that they speak at least one language other than English at home. Our challenge is to be even better at transforming our congregations into ones that not only *welcome* people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures, but also encourage their participation.

For example, if your church is "monocultural" and your neighborhood is not, reach out to meet your neighbors. That can help you determine ways they would appreciate your congregation being good neighbors to them.

If other languages are spoken, then learn the language(s) – at least greetings and pronunciation rules so that you can pronounce names correctly. Going a step further, consider incorporating other languages into your worship, or offering a non-English service. Consider organizing and hosting study circles – a national effort to bring people from diverse backgrounds together to share their own experiences on topics such as race, immigration, and diversity. It's a way to build relationships of trust among people of different backgrounds.

And here's a radical idea: how about extending some "radical hospitality" by holding a worship service at a local community center? That can be a non-threatening venue for people who don't feel comfortable walking through the doors of a church by themselves, or without an invitation.

People of God, as we embrace the concept of "change," let us not forget to apply it to ourselves!

Prayer for our President

But of course I recognize that change is not *automatically* a positive thing. Certainly we have seen a great deal of change - *not positive* to any discernable degree – in our economy, and that catastrophic problem is one of the first that our new President must confront. I am grateful that he will not face that task unequipped, but rather empowered by his faith in Almighty God.

Ephesians 6 offers my prayer for our new President, in verses 13-18:

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

As your bishop, I ask that you pray regularly for President Barack Obama and for the new Administration. Whether his election signaled the change that you hoped to see or not, we have a new President – through whom God can do great things.

"I can do everything," wrote the Apostle Paul, "through him who gives me strength." (Phil. 4:13.)

Your brother in Christ,



Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Our First:

San Jose District Quarterly Conference

February 21, 2009

8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Campbell United Methodist Church

1675 Winchester Boulevard, Campbell, CA

Special Guest Speaker:

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

**“Make Me a Witness
For My Lord”**

**Led by Rev. Kristie Olah,
San Jose District Superintendent**

**Register BY February 17, 2009
With Pam, San Jose District Office**

Cost: \$8 for each person, includes lunch

CHILDCARE available ONLY if requested by February 17. Cost: \$5 per child. You must bring lunch for each child.

Make check out to “California - Nevada Annual Conference” and send to San Jose District Office, 729 Morse Street, San Jose, CA 95126. More flyers and the conference schedules are Available in the SUMC office.

Calendar

February

- 1 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall
Worship - Black History Month
(Special Offering)
Korean Bible Study at 11:30 AM
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 2 Centering Prayer
- 5 Choir Practice
- 7 Lay Leadership
- 8 Worship – Communion Sunday
Boy Scout Sunday
Korean Bible Study at 11:30 AM
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 9 Centering Prayer
- 12 Choir Practice
- 15 Worship
Korean Bible Study at 11:30 AM
Study Help at 4:00 PM
- 16 Centering Prayer
- 17 *Beacon Deadline*
- 19 Choir Practice
- 21 San Jose District Quarterly Conference
- 22 Change-Over Sunday
Korean Bible Study at 11:30 AM
Study Help at 4:00 PM
- 23 Centering Prayer
- 28 Trustees' Meeting

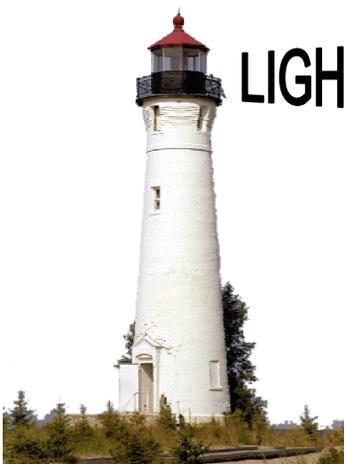
March

- 1 Worship – Communion
Korean Bible Study at 11:30 AM
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 2 Centering Prayer
- 5 Choir
- 7 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road
Milpitas, CA 95035



LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING