

# The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
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Cel  
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*Visit us on the Web!*

*www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills*

**April 2009**

## THE RESURRECTION

By M.S. Lowndes

We hold so close to our hearts  
The cross where Jesus died  
But so much more than the blood-stained cross  
Is that Jesus came back to life

The stone's been rolled away  
The tomb lay open and bare  
They looked for Him, and then the angel said  
That He is no longer here

Oh what joy they must have felt  
To see Him just once more  
To eat with Him, to drink with Him  
To receive Him back as Lord

So much did He accomplish  
Through His death upon the cross  
And in His rising from the dead  
He reconciled us back to God

Nothing else could bridge the gap  
That sin had wrenched apart  
Now we can freely go to God  
And receive Christ in our hearts

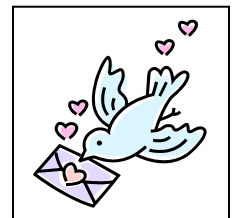
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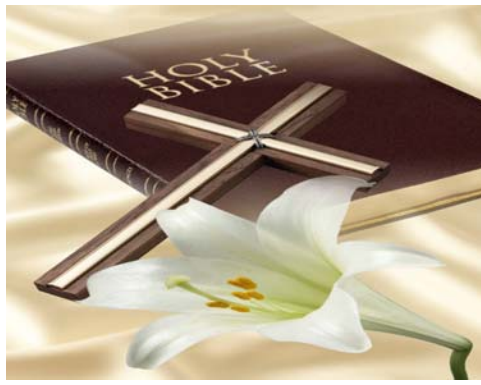
On **April 4, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.** there will be a community Breakfast hosted by the **The Sikh Foundation**. Please note this is on a Saturday.

The next **WRAP Meeting** will be **Sunday, April 19, 2009** after Worship.

**BEACON DEADLINE:** For the May issue – Tuesday morning, **April 21, 2009**.

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** is **Change-over Sunday**.





Dear Friends,

We are living with a sense of crisis because of the current economic downturn. The new Obama administration has been implementing economic stimulus plans to revive the ailing economy. While I was reading Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus, I felt I discovered an answer when it comes to finding a solution in a crisis situation. Of course, I am not here saying that I have found in the Bible an answer for an economic problem. But, I understood something that may have important implications in a crisis situation of groups in general, including a local church, for instance. And, that is, enabling the members of a group to have a sense of common purpose is a must for a group to come to terms with a crisis situation successfully. Let me quote Ephesians 2:1-10.

<sup>1</sup>In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. <sup>2</sup>You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. . . <sup>4-5</sup>But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you. <sup>6</sup>God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven. . . . <sup>10</sup>God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

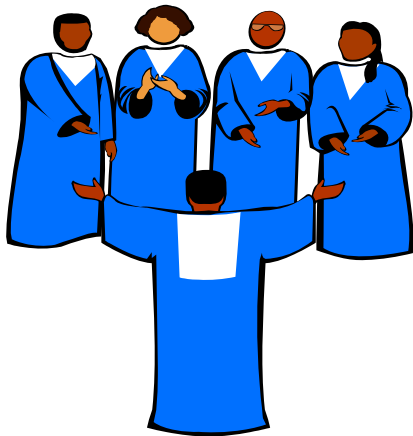
Paul explains the differences between the life with and without having faith in Christ. And then in verse 10, Paul explains the final purpose of this new life of having faith in Christ. At the end of the day, if I use a common expression, God calls Christians for a single purpose "to do good things" which is how "he has always wanted us to live." Obviously the "good things" are something that the current powers, disobedient to God, are refusing to do and do otherwise.(verse 2)

Churches are in crisis; they have lost their vitality. This is not something new to hear; for mainline protestant demoninations have been steadily losing their membership. Our own annual conference is also addressing this issue of revitalizing the church. How can the church regain its vitality? My answer to this question is: we need to regain the sense of purpose as a church.

We will be celebrating the resurrection of Christ soon on Easter Sunday. And, I sincerely hope that this year's Easter will be an occasion to regain the sense of purpose as a church. So that we will carry out our ministry at Sunnyhills with a sense of unity working together for a shared vision for our future. This will be the experience of resurrection of Christ, who is the head of the church. And, I hope we will be able to answer for ourselves the question: "What are the good things to do so that we live as God has always wanted us to live?"

Sincerely,

Chansoo Lee



► **Earth and Heaven in Chorus say...**

The Choir practices every **Thursday** at **6:30** in the **Sanctuary**. However, there will be **no practice** Thursday, **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us any other Thursday to sing and have a *good time*.

Join on in and make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



► **WRAP**

The next **WRAP** meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19th, 2009 after Worship.

► **St. Joseph is organizing** an outdoor gardening and clean-up work party on April 4<sup>th</sup> to prepare the campus for Easter. All are welcome to join in.



► **Sunday Afternoon Study Group**

An academic study group meets Sundays at 4:00PM for help with various subjects. Tutoring is available for grades 1-8 in the sanctuary. Please don't hesitate to bring your child in for assistance with their studies. There will be no study group on Easter Sunday.

► **Trustees**

The next **Trustees Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18, 2009** at **9:30 AM**.



► **Change-Over Sunday** is **April 26, 2009**.

“God calls Christians for a single purpose “to do good things””

This ministry is a good example of “good things”. Thank you again for your generosity.



**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 04/10 Janyce Singleton
- 04/15 Marilyn Ray
- 04/19 Jennifer Touchton
- 04/22 Marcia Crawford
- 04/27 John Marcus
- 04/27 Leola Saterwhite



**Income and Expenses  
February 2009**

**INCOME**

	<i>February</i>
Offerings	\$3,255.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$4,745.37
Special Giving	\$59.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,059.67</b>

**EXPENSES**

	<i>February</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 1,205.35
Operating Expense	\$ 3,475.14
Pastor and Staff	\$ 6,973.39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,653.88</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$32,659.72
Designated funds	\$11,826.26

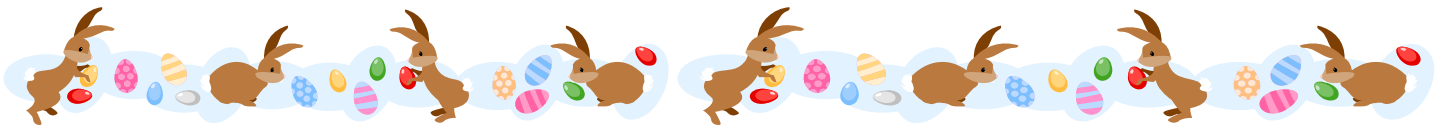




### ***Calling All You Semi-Retired Easter Bunnies!***

Please be reminded of the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday *after* Worship Service. Contributions of plastic eggs, candy, and other “egg-stuffing” items are needed.

Please bring them to Church Palm Sunday, or drop them by the Church Office during the week. **ANY OLDER YOUTH** interested in helping, please contact Gwen Freeman at (408) 263-8942.



## Easter


Easter Sunrise Service will be at 7:00 A.M. on the front Lawn.

Please bring a Finger Food Breakfast dish to share after this service.

Easter Service will be at 9:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary.

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the lawn right after Worship Service.

(Happy Hunting)



**Easter Sunrise Service**  
**April 12, 2009 - 7:00 a.m.**

**Easter Worship Service**  
**April 12, 2009 - 9:30 a.m.**

# Community Breakfast Schedule

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

April 4, 2009  
Sikh Foundation  
Gurdev Sandhu

May 2, 2009  
Milpitas Fire Department

June 6, 2009  
Milpitas Parks and Recreation  
President Bonnie Greiner

- \* 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 Saturday Breakfast time is 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 6<sup>th</sup> will be the last breakfast before summer break.



## ***How Does Your Garden Grow???***

**Do you have ideas to make our church yard look inviting? Some ideas so far: vegetable garden, labyrinth, meditation grove of trees in memory of those who have contributed to our church. Pass on your ideas to a Trustee member or Gwen Freeman by April 17. We will review the ideas at Trustees on April 18 and WRAP on April 19. We need to consider labor, cost of plants, cost and ease of maintenance, and of course water. Just to refresh your memories: Trustee members are Thelma Wilber, Jo Roll, Daislyn Pease, Ralph Nikolaus, Karen Schreifels, and Jack Freeman.**

## Leadership Training at Sunnyhills

Sunnyhills' lay leaders gathered on Saturday, March 21 for a day long leadership training. At the start of the day, Pastor Chansoo Lee led us in a reflection of scripture and a reading from Vital Congregations which focused us on thinking about renewing our congregation. Erik Larsen, our Lay Leader, then laid out a statement of purpose for our church. We quickly came to an agreement that Sunnyhills is a reconciling multicultural congregation united to share the love of God.

We discussed many of our existing ministries, programs, and activities. These included special worship services, Korean and English language worship services, Annual Conference, BBQs and potlucks, hymn fests, choir, centering prayer, lunch bunch, visiting the sick and infirm, butterfly garden, and adult bible study. We host organizations such as Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association, NA, AA, and Al-Anon. We rent our facility out to several organizations.

Also, we discussed five new initiatives for our church. The new projects include the following:

1. Additional lay leadership training
2. Establish a Finance and Stewardship Committee to proactively address a projected drop in giving during the Summer months. The first meeting of the committee will be April 6, 6:30 PM.
3. Convene a Youth Program Committee to develop a proposal for an extended summer Vacation Bible School.
4. Develop a proposal to revamp the Sunnyhills Monthly Breakfasts
5. Develop a proposal for creating a vegetable garden injunction with a new Health and Wellness ministry.

In the coming weeks, Pastor Chon Su Lee will be working with lay leaders to develop many of these proposals and bring them before our administrative body of WRAP for consideration and a vote.

After a wonderful lunch provided by Gwen Freeman, we participated in a discussion about leadership in a multicultural church. The conversation was led by Edna Cruz from St. Paul United Methodist Church in Fremont. We answered several questions including: Why is multicultural ministry necessary? What are requirements for successful multicultural ministry? And what are the obstacles that the congregation has to overcome? We learned that a multi-cultural church is one that is multi-ethnic in composition, and where cultural values are respected, recognized and embraced.

In conclusion, the time we spent together was very worthwhile. This will help us lay the ground work for a very productive year of ministry where we move together united in mission and vision for a re-vitalized congregation.



## Calendar

### April

- 2 Choir
- 4 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall  
Gardening and Clean-up to prepare for Easter
- 5 Worship – Palm/Passion Sunday  
Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM  
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 6 Centering Prayer
- 12 Easter Sunrise Service (7:00 a.m.)  
Finger-food Breakfast  
Easter Worship (9:30 a.m.)  
Easter Egg Hunt
- 13 Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM  
Centering Prayer
- 16 Choir Practice
- 18 Trustees
- 19 Worship

- WRAP (after Worship)
- 20 Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM  
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 21 Centering Prayer
- 21 *BEACON Deadline*
- 23 Choir Practice
- 26 Worship – Change-Over Sunday  
Korean Ministry Service at 11:30 AM  
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 27 Centering Prayer
- 30 Choir Practice

### May

- 1 Game Nite (6:30 p.m.)
- 2 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall  
San Jose District Training in Pacific Grove  
Worship
- 3 Korean Ministry Service  
Study Help at 4:00PM
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

# LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING

