



The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Chansoo Lee

Cel
Church Office

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Visit us on the Web!

www.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills

December 2009

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

Notes from the editor:

The next **WRAP meeting** will be **December 6, 2009**
after worship.

BEACON DEADLINE: For the **January** issue – **Thursday**
morning, **December 17, 2009.**

December 27th is **Change-over Sunday.**



The Birth of Jesus and the Birth of a Congregation

“Advent is a season of four weeks. Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” The season proclaims the comings of Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings.”* For this year, I want to propose a special preparation for the comings of the Christ: a preparation for our own birth, a new birth.

We have learned about this idea of new birth from the gospel according John. In the passage where Jesus speaks with Nicodemus, he explains the need of being born “from above.” It involves being born of the Spirit; it is a birth “not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.”

For the preparation of a new birth, I will interpret the Luke’s account of Jesus’ birth with particular focus. I will look into the socio-historical realities of the world that Jesus was born into; and try to answer how those realities inform us about our own world today. And I expect that this, in turn, will inform us our own new birth.

Often the idea of new birth in the gospel according John receives emphasis only in the context of an individual. This can be quite misleading if the communal dimension of the new birth is left out. The new birth, of course, has individual dimension in the sense Christian faith requires personal relationship with Jesus as we know of him in the gospels. However, the individual births come together and lead to the birth of a community. In other words, our own new birth means the new birth of our congregation.

We adapted a mission statement at this year’s church conference held at the beginning of this November. This is an integral part of the birth process. I want to consider it as the beginning of a new birth for our congregation. We need to use it because how we use it will determine the kind of church we will give birth to. As we anticipate the coming of the Christ, so do we the birth of a new congregation.

Peace,

Chansoo Lee

* Book of Worship, the United Methodist



► **Choir**

Drop on by any **Thursday** at **6:30** to join in the fun as we practice our new Christmas music. Tis the season for “Fa la la la, la la la la and “to Come All Ye Faithful”. So come and join in the music of the season.



► **WRAP** will have their next meeting, **Sunday, December 6, 2009** after Worship in the **Church Office**. All are welcome. We hope to see you there.



► ***Special Offering in these such difficult times!*** **Your support is so important!** There will be a special offering taken on **December 20, 2009** to benefit both the Milpitas Food Pantry and the San Jose Family Shelter. **Please help these wonderful organizations provide for families especially this year.**

► **Trustees**

There will be no more Trustees’ meetings in 2009. The next Trustees’ meeting will be Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the church office. Have a Merry, MERRY Christmas and a sane New Year.



► ***Change-Over Sunday*** is **December 27, 2009**. Your generosity continues to help feed your neighbors. Thanks again.

Happy Birthday Wishes to...

- 12/05 Katherine Twite
- 12/09 Alex Walker
- 12/11 Juanita Whetstone
- 12/17 Miles Crawford
- 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 2009**

INCOME

	<i>October</i>
Offerings	\$ 2,560.30
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$6,100.20
Special Giving	\$129.03
TOTAL	\$8,789.53

EXPENSES

	<i>October</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 2,490.08
Operating Expense	\$ 1,992.45
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,466.95
TOTAL	\$ 9,949.48

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$34,489.02
Designated funds	\$22,453.60





SCRIP Reminder

Please order your scrip from me (Daislyn Pease) on Sundays, via email at daislyn@sbcglobal.net or contact me at (408) 262-4236. Scrip is the easy fundraiser - you only get things you really need and use, and the church gets a small profit from each transaction.

Don't forget, they make great gifts too! Wouldn't it be great if the church benefited from all that buying power. It's just about the easiest fundraiser ever!

Thanks,

Daislyn



Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Presents...

A Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th

Lighting of Luminaries - 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service - 7:00 p.m.

She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger





An All Church Conversation with Kristie Olah

our District Superintendent is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 9, 2009** in the **Sanctuary**, at **7:00** p.m.. Please mark your calendars, everyone is invited.

SUNNYHILLS UMC MISSION STATEMENT:

We strive to build a community of faith welcoming to **all**, as we journey together with Christ for the transformation of the world.

The proposed Supercenter that Walmart proposes to open in Milpitas comes with risks.

Here's what grocery workers in Milpitas are saying about the Draft Environmental Impact Report that was recently released. A Supercenter will.....

- Displace Local Businesses. Milpitas already serves as a regional retail magnet. A 24-hour Supercenter will not generate substantial gains in sales tax revenues, since it will simply displace other existing retail.
- Add to Urban Decay. As businesses close as a result of a Supercenter, property values will fall due to urban decay and property tax revenues will be lower than otherwise.
- Increase Traffic Congestion. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) states that the 24-hour Supercenter will have 'significant unavoidable impacts' on the roadways due to traffic increases.
- Lower Wages. Wal-Mart pays lower wages and benefits than most of its competitors, particularly in the grocery arena. These lower wages will impact Milpitas' economy since many employees are likely to be residents. These new jobs will displace higher paying jobs in the grocery industry.
- Lower Quality of Life. When a community's mom-and-pop operations lose to national big-box chains, the community loses as well. And although Wal-Mart is located on the other side of the Interstate, a 24-hour Supercenter will impact the entire city, including your neighborhood stores.

Don't Miss Out! Come join in the fun as we decorate the Christmas Tree and the Sanctuary after Worship, Sunday December 13th. Help make Sunnyhills Sparkle with Holiday Spirit!!



Calendar

December

- 5 Community Breakfast
- 6 Worship
- 7 WRAP (after Worship)
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 9 All Church Conversation with Kristie Olah
- 10 Choir
- 13 Worship
- 13 Decorating the Tree and Sanctuary
- 14 Centering Prayer
- 17 BEACON *Deadline*
- 17 Choir
- 20 Worship (Special Offering for the Milpitas Food Pantry and the San Jose Homeless Shelter)
- 21 Centering Prayer
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. (Lighting the Luminaries at 6:00 p.m.)
- 25 *Merry Christmas*
- 27 Worship – Change-Over Sunday
- 28 Centering Prayer

January

- 3 Worship
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir
- 9 Community Breakfast
- 9 Trustees' Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Worship
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 14 Choir
- 17 Worship
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 19 BEACON *Deadline*
- 21 Choir
- 24 Worship
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 28 Choir Practice
- 31 Worship – Change Over Sunday

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