

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

January 2010

# 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](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills)

**Holy Father,**

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows. We praise You for Your unequalled greatness. Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more. To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them. To teach others to love by loving them. Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us. So that Love could be with us, and we could know You. That we could share Love with others. Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise, in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards, in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children. Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs, so that we may know You better and better. We rejoice in the world You loved into being. Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others. Forgive us for falling short this past year. We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us. We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want. I say it again, we rejoice! In Jesus name, **Amen.**

## Notes from the editor:

The next **Trustee's meeting** will be **January 9, 2010**  
after worship.

**BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **February** issue –**Tuesday**  
morning, **January 19, 2010.**

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet next at **11:30 a.m., January 24, 2010**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>** is **Change-over Sunday.**





## Begin Again and Begin Anew

There will continue to be a major emphasis on church growth for this year. It is crucial that our future efforts for this next year build on what we have accomplished last year, including the mission statement and scripture passage adapted at the church conference in November, and activities and programs reviewed at the administrative council last month. There is a planning workshop scheduled on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. At that time, among other things, we will refine the proposed activities and programs as well as set the goals for this year. In preparation for this event, I want to share some key ideas that will be informative in our planning efforts for growth.

First idea is identity. Who do you believe you are? The answer to this question is the identity. We can never underestimate the importance of having a clear sense of identity as a church. A clear sense of purpose stems from authentic identity. It also is an important source of motivation. We need think through this question of identity for ourselves and arrive at a genuine understanding.

An example from the gospel story is helpful in this regard, namely the account of the Jesus' baptism. Jesus receives the water baptism from John in the river Jordan and according to the account when Jesus emerges from the water the heaven splits and he hears a voice saying, "You are my beloved son.:" Of course, this story can have more than one interpretation. But, at least this story has something very important to the self-understanding of Jesus regarding who believed he was, and that it gave him a sense of mission.

Identity is something that is both given and something that one defines for oneself. For a congregation, its identity is defined by its own history. However it defines its own identity which informs its own present mission; thus a congregation writes its own history at the same time. As a congregation we need to be able answer the following questions at the planning event on January 23. Who do we believe we are? Who do we want to be?

I want to illustrate how the principle of identity informs our planning process. The idea of identity implies uniqueness. Every person is different and unique; this also is true to each church and its congregation. Otherwise, we would not need separate churches. Each church has its own unique history. Also each context and situation where ministry is being carried is different. This means we should not feel obligated to duplicate what other churches do. Rather, we need to develop a ministry unique to our own situation. And it should be so unique that it cannot be replaced. This in turn then would give reason why our church needs to continue to exist.

There are other ideas that I have in mind, such as interconnection, diversity, and self-renewal. I will illustrate how these ideas inform our planning process on other occasions, including my Sunday messages and articles on the church website. For now, I want to encourage you to think through ideas of growth for yourselves.

Happy New Year!

Chansoo

► **Trustees**

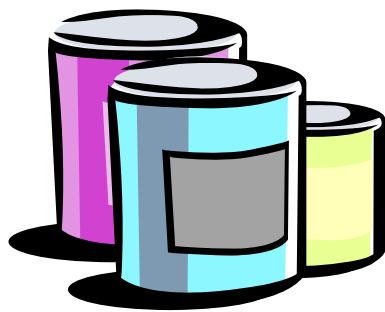
The next Trustees' meeting will be **Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.** in the **church office**. Please mark your calendar and Happy New Year.



► **Choir** A New Year means a new sound from the choir. Drop on by any **Thursday at 6:30** to join in the fun as we practice our new music and some old favorites. So Happy New Year and for Auld Lang Syne, come share your voice to make a joyful noise.

► **Leadership Conference**

We will have our first **Leadership Meeting** of 2010, **Saturday, January 23, 9:00 a.m.** at **Sunnyhills UMC**. Lets work out the strategies together. Come join in the fun.



► **Lunch Bunch**

Lunch bunch will gather next, at **11:30 a.m.** on **January 24, 2010**. Location yet to be determined. Keep an eye on the emails and bulletins for more information.

► **Change-Over Sunday** is **January 31, 2010**. Cold weather is here and a warm meal is not only appreciated but is necessary for so many of our brothers, sisters and children. **Thank you for being there!!** Thanks to you, someone **WON'T** go to bed hungry tonight.

► **Herb Holloway Hall**

The dedication of Herb Holloway Hall is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31, 2010**. The time has not yet been announced so please keep your eye on the emails and the bulletins for further information. Thank you.

**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
- 01/22 Laurie Haas
- 01/23 Guy Haas



**Happy Anniversary!**

- 01/19 Anita and Reuben Valderrama

**Income and Expenses  
November 2009**

<b>INCOME</b>	
	<i>November</i>
Offerings	\$ 3,788.54
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$6,096.32
Special Giving	\$466.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,351.30</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
	<i>November</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 1,426.27
Operating Expense	\$ 1,234.18
Pastor and Staff	\$ 4,959.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,620.12</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$37,229.96
Designated funds	\$22,679.04







## *A Letter from the Administrative Council Chair...*

I want to say thank you to those that attended the last WRAP meeting on December 6, 2009. Our big accomplishment was that we adopted our work plan for 2010. Days later we used this document during our conversation with the District Superintendent. It helped us frame the discussion about our church.

During the meeting she repeatedly wanted to know what ministry and programs at Sunnyhills make us excited about being involved in the church. The Community Breakfast Program, and Adult Worship, Music and Study Programs were cited as examples of programs that we are excited about. Also, updating our web page and developing Youth Programs were cited as two examples of projects that members were interested in pursuing in the coming months. Maintenance of our buildings and facility was cited as an on going project that requires continual ministry, care, and attention.

I'd like to hold up these externally and internally focused programs and ministries in our prayers. I would like us to reflect and ask ourselves some questions: Are these the five priorities for our church? Do these activities get us excited about Sunnyhills UMC? Do they help us live out our new mission statement? Do they help us live out our values based in scripture? Can we unite behind these priorities and work together to build our church with renewed and focused energy?

Please join me in prayer as we prepare for our Saturday, January 23, leadership meeting at 9:00 am at Sunnyhills UMC. The purpose of the meeting is to set our priorities for the coming year. Our District Superintendent is very interested in hearing a report about our next steps. She will want to know if we were able to come to an agreement about our priorities and work together in implementing our new work plan. Thank you.

Erik Larsen, Chairperson  
Administration Council





*In Preparation of our Leadership Conference...Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.*

*Please review the following...*

**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.

**VALUES ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE:**

Micah 6:8, He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Utilize United Methodist Church Cooperative Ministry resources to develop a strategy to live out our Mission Statement
2. Refine our local Church identity to better understand who we are and where we want to go.

**PROPOSED GOALS:**

- Organize community building events and activities
- Improve communications including update our web page
- Schedule a Spring leadership training
- Schedule a special charge conference with the DS to address health insurance issue and to fill out the leadership roster
- Refine the ministries and programs of Sunnyhills Church
- Engage in cooperative ministry and programming with other Churches
- Conduct a comprehensive review of finances and create a 2-3 year Financial Plan
- Address on going building maintenance issues through Trustees
- Develop a plan for growing our membership

**Mark your calendars for our: Next District Quarterly Conference! It will be February 13, 2010, 8:30a.m. - 1 p.m..**

**The topic: As we rethink church, what is the role of lay leadership? ALL are invited!**

# Calendar

## January

- 3 Worship
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir
- 9 Community Breakfast
- Trustees' Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Worship
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 14 Choir
- 17 Worship
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 19 BEACON *Deadline*
- 21 Choir
- 23 Leadership Conference
- 24 Worship then Lunch Bunch @ 11:30
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 28 Choir Practice
- 31 Worship – Change Over Sunday
- Dedication of Herb Holloway Hall

## February

- 1 Centering Prayer
- 4 Choir Practice
- 6 Community Breakfast
- 7 Worship
- WRAP (after Worship)
- 8 Centering Prayer
- 11 Choir
- 13 District Quarterly Conference
- 14 Worship
- 15 Centering Prayer
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 18 Choir
- 20 Freedom Songs – Song Fest
- 21 Worship
- WRAP after worship
- 22 Centering Prayer
- 25 Choir
- 28 Worship – Change-Over Sunday

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

