

Good News



Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Opening Hearts, Opening Minds, and Opening Doors

Things Are Moving

Lots of buzz around the church. The Youth Group has started its year with a great group. We have a contract for the Parsonage Kitchen, so cabinets are being made. The Administrative Council is winding up its introductory processes and we are about to go out to the whole congregation. The last membership class with twelve people in it is getting ready for its last session and another ten are inquiring. The choir is doing some great music. Darcy has curriculum and has been recruiting for the Sunday School which starts again on the 16th. The Avon walkers for breast cancer are meeting and both the youth and that mission will have things set up during the Taste of Morgan Hill. Summer is over and the energy level at the church is in high gear.

Charge Conference

The District superintendent has set the date of our Annual Charge Conference to Sunday October 7 at 5:30pm at Gilroy United Methodist church on 5th and Church streets in Gilroy. This year many of the Conferences for churches will be combined together. Certain business will be conducted together and some separately. Ours has been set with Gilroy United Methodist. We will be able to share our celebrations of ministry with them and the District is going to present information about Transformational churches at that time.

In the next weeks, we will be looking at budgets, membership numbers, and goals for 2008. We will report on the congregational meetings if they are done. We will set the pastor's salary for 2008 and elect officers of the church. Everyone is welcome.

All Church Meetings

You are invited, encouraged, demanded, and cajoled to come to one of four meetings we are sponsoring in the weeks after September 16.

Thursday evening, September 20 from 7:30 to 9:00 at the Melroy Residence, up in the eastern hills of Morgan Hill.

Friday evening, September 21 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Richardson residence on the east side of the freeway in Gilroy.

Tuesday evening, September 25 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Foster/McIntosh Residence behind Nob Hill in Morgan Hill.

Sunday, September 23 at church from 11:30 to 12:30 in the Annex, or wherever.

We will be sharing information that will lead so some of the biggest decisions this church has had to make in a hundred years. We need everyone's input. And we are going to check out the commitment levels of those who attend to get an idea of what we can expect once we start. So whether you have been coming two weeks or forty years, we need your insight so please try to make one of the meetings. If you could call the office to let us know which one you will try to attend, we would appreciate it.



Contacts

Pastor

Ted Pecot

Secretary

Peggy Pinarbasi

Youth Director

Jeannie Clayton

Pianist

Denise Melroy

Wedding Coordinator

Phyllis Bellet

Lay Leader

Megan Richardson

Lay Member

Trish Dewett

President of the Board

Kathy Liebschutz

Janet Braslin

Treasurer

John Braslin

Staff Parish Relations

Denise Melroy

Education

Darcy Foster

Building

Carol Frazer

Dan Skene

Catherine Stone Circle

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Office Hours

T, W, Th 9:30-12:30

Slowly Drowning or Risking Success

When I was a kid, we lived in Arlington, Virginia and just two blocks away was a park. I loved to explore so I went there a lot, I think often without much permission. Up the embankment, over the railroad tracks, down to the creek which I loved. Hard to get lost at the tracks or the creek. But sometimes I would venture into the woods. I learned early that I could travel and remember the turns I took. I knew to look backward when I took a new path to see it in the direction I would return. And I could remember for a while all the twists and turns. But there came a point when I knew that I was stretching my memory. To go on, the venture would turn into adventure. I would be in new territory and getting lost was a distinct possibility (though one that didn't worry me too much). That was the turning point. A decision was required because from this point on is the unknown.

I have been thinking about those woods in the last weeks. Because I think we are at a turning point in the church. Our church hasn't been growing. For a hundred years, we have tried everything that thirty pastors and hundreds of lay leaders could think of. We venture out a bit, grow a bit, and always come back to pretty much the same familiar territory, the same familiar numbers. Christ has blessed the ministries we have done. But time and the economy don't stand still and the familiar days have been disappearing behind us. Our old home has changed and so we have a choice. Be strangled by housing developments, or move into the unknown territory.

Administrative Council is concerned about our future. Money is getting impossible, the building is taking more and more of our energy, and leaders are taking on too much that they do because they "have to" not because they are "called to". So, while the church really is filled with great people, vibrant worship, and significant ministry, the foundations are beginning to crumble. We can't go home any more, we can't return to the familiar and survive. So, it is time to make a decision. It is time to go beyond what we can see, what we know, and what we can safely think through. In reality, the next steps of this church no matter what we do will be into the wilderness.

The Council has done some great thinking that we want to share with you. And we need your advice as we plan some more. To do this, we are encouraging every active participant, member or not, to join us in a presentation and discussion about the future of the church. We need your wisdom and your emotion, your confusion and your prayers as we discern our next steps. And we will need your commitment. So, please come to the meetings. If you only relate to this church through the newsletter, write us a note with ideas and thoughts. Send me an email. Call a friend.

Just like the Whos in Whoville, or someone lost in the forest, it is time to make your voice heard. We're listening. The turning point is upon us. Which way do we go?

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

Ever feel curious about walking in a marathon? Ever feel called to raise money for a good cause? Would you like to be part of a great group of women getting together and committing to the Avon Walk next year? You are welcome to join us to see what we are doing, to walk with us and help us train and/or to help us raise money for this cause. We plan on having good fun along the way and welcome all to join us! Contact Harriet Pecot at hpecot@interorealestate.com or 408.315.1623.

Some Questions from the Administrative Council Deliberations

How many people does it take in 2008 at make a stable foundation in money and in critical mass for a church?

Is our building an asset or a liability to the growth of the congregation. What effects does the clutter, the shape of the nursery or classrooms, or the state of the restrooms have on the growth of the church?

What does it mean in the health of the church when we don't pay all our apporionments or take care of our building when it needs work?

How do we express our passions and calls in Morgan Hill?

What does it mean when the number of leaders at the church are shrinking when the numbers of members are growing?

What would it take to move beyond our dependence of everyone at one worship service?

What does it mean to express our style in Morgan Hill?

Are people really hearing our good news and what would it take to get it heard?

Women's Group News

- Wanda Garrett

A big "thank you" to everyone who supported the Annual Rummage Sale, August 17 & 18.

Our sales totaled \$637! The majority of this will go to the missions of our United Methodist Women's Group: Community Solutions, Heifer Project, Ann in China (JHF), the national Women's Division, and special projects at our own church.

At least 20 people helped with setup, sales, and cleanup. They include: Phyllis Bellet, Jeannie Clayton, Chuck Foster, Carol Fraser, Jeremy Garrett, Ken Hanchett, John & Dixie Howe, Lana Kawakami, Etta Lee, Marji McMillan, Denise Melroy, Harriet & Jennifer Pecot, Peggy Pinarbasi, Mary Ringo, Dan & Debbie Skeen, Carol Swartz, and Jeanne Urton. Many others donated items.

Without each of you, the event would not have been as successful. Again, thank you!

Finances

Thank you for all the financial gifts to the church. Summer didn't hit us as hard as usual, but we are still quite behind as we enter the school year. We had one surprise this summer. Many of our members now pledge with electronic transfers so much of the contribution income was stable over the summer, which we appreciate.

August Received	\$10,526
August Needed	\$10,920
Year to Date Received	\$69,673
Year to Date Budget	\$88,183

Worship Coming Up

Sunday, September 9, 2007

Birthing and Dying, last in the Christianity 101 series.

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Rally Day Saints and Angels

Sunday, September 23, 2007

Justice—Do It Again

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Taste of Morgan Hill. Remember the streets will be blocked off for the fair this day and you will need to walk into church. But we will have a great time.

Sunday, October 7, 2007

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 14, 2007

The Feast of Saint Francis and the Blessing of the Animals. Bring your pets to church. The youth will care for them until we bring everybody, meaning every different kind of body, into the church as we celebrate the Clown of God.

Catherine Stone Circle

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:00 in the morning to quilt. Anyone is welcomed to join us, no experience necessary.

Serendipity Bible Study

Usually we meet Monday mornings at 10:30 in the Annex. Contact Megan Richardson for details and questions.

Adult Bible Study

Usually we meet at 9:00 on Sunday mornings in the pastor's office in the Annex. Contact the office or Megan Richardson for more information.

Youth Group

We meet Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 pm. Students in Junior and Senior High are welcome. Check the schedule on the youth page of the church's website www.mhumc.com or contact Jeannie at 782-2141.