

# Good News



Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

*Opening Hearts, Opening Minds, and Opening Doors*

## Thoughts From Pastor Jeff...

Greetings,

Easter is not a calendar holy day – like Christmas. Easter is a lunar holy day, which means that the calendar date changes each year. Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. This year that day is April 4th, and that day is the first day of the Easter Season – or what is also called The Great Fifty Days of Easter. On Sundays during the Great Fifty Days of Easter, you will be hearing brief, personal God Moments from people who took the Lenten class, God Moments.

Easter Sunday will include a Sunrise Service led by the Youth Group. Meet at the church at 6:15am, and we'll walk up the hill a bit. After Sunrise Service, everyone is welcome to a breakfast at the church, brought to you by Dave and Beth Moore and others. Easter Sunday worship will be at 10:00am and will include special music and a brief drama by the kids. After worship, we'll have coffee and hot cross buns, which I'll bring, while the kids have an Easter egg hunt.

Now that the rains have stopped, people are getting busy in the church yard and with prep work for painting the exterior of the church. If you want to help, talk to Ed Church.

I'll be taking vacation from April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>. May Elyn and I are going to Italy for the first time. We'll meet friends from London in Rome and stay at convents and monasteries in Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Venice. While I'm away, you'll have some excellent preaching and worship leadership: Gretchen Vandenberg on May 2, John McCotter on May 9, and Lynn

Morgan on May 16. I have feeling especially good about our worship together lately – good spirits, good attendance, lively participation!

I have discovered in recent weeks that there is a hunger to learn more about the United Methodist tradition and ways, so in May, I'll begin preaching once a month – on the fourth Sunday of each month – about some aspect of our tradition which might be especially valuable for this congregation to consider during this interim. God willing and the creeks don't rise, we'll begin our second and final year of the interim on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

For those of you desiring church membership – or just the chance to learn more about the United Methodist tradition and renewal of your membership, I'll be teaching a Membership and Renewal class after Sunday coffee hours during the four Sundays of June. Blessings! Pastor Jeff

## Administrative Council Meeting March 14, 2010

### Minutes

#### 1. Finance (Eugene)

a. Budget – A budget was proposed (available separately). John Braslin, Carol Frazer, and Megan Richardson have reviewed it and are OK with it. It contains a slight (\$3874) deficit, mostly due to about \$3000 in uncertain pledges and conservative estimates of expenses. Total income \$114,770; total expenses \$118,644.

Vote to accept this as the 2010 Budget: Debbie (motion), John (2<sup>nd</sup>), Approved unanimously.

b. Current Financial Status – We are currently able to pay all bills.

c. Finance Software – In reviewing the new software, Eugene found the presentation of family member names to be overly formal (“Mr & Mrs Eugene Davis”, rather than “Eugene & Jenny Davis” as we prefer). A new version due out this week will have improved presentation. Eugene will start setting it up as soon as he receives it. He hopes to have enough information entered to be able to include family information (for verification) in the next quarter’s giving reports.

## 2. Youth Group (Jeannie)

The youth are planning for the Sunrise Easter Service, and for the Easter Egg Hunt after the 10am worship service. Donations of items for the egg hunt are requested.

## 3. Facilities Usage Opportunity (Debbie)

Census Department - From 11pm Wednesday March 30 through 7am Thursday March 31, the Census department would like to use our Fellowship Hall as a command center for their homeless count. 2 to 3 people would be there at all times, to coordinate the counters going out to the local encampments. Debbie will arrange for a church member (probably herself) to lock and unlock the building.

Vote to allow this usage: Jeannie (motion), Mary (2<sup>nd</sup>), Approved unanimously.

## 4. Fundraiser Ideas

a. Debrito’s Chocolate Factory Apples (<http://www.debritochocolate.com>) – Hollister candy store has a fundraising plan involving selling over 40 types of caramel apples. Jeannie will check on it.

b. Chili Cookoff – The group liked the idea of a formal chili cookoff. The Skeens have a judging kit. Suggestion was to request donations rather than charge for bowls of chili. Maybe early in the summer.

c. Ice Cream Contest – Similar to a chili cookoff, homemade ice cream is judged. Good for later in the summer.

- Minutes respectfully submitted by Wanda Garrett

## News from the Youth

By Jeannie Clayton

The Sunrise service was a wonderful event. Thanks to everyone who made the effort to rise and shine on Easter morning and participate in the service. The youth led the service with several readings following Jesus after the resurrection. Jeremy led the music with his guitar. It is a re-birth on Easter morning and such a wonderful way to take in all God’s creation. He lives!

Dear MHUMC Congregation, thank you so much for all your generous donations for the children’s Easter Egg Hunt! The youth also had some kind adults help to stuff all the goodies into all those eggs. Good times were had in finding all the eggs, and hopefully your dear children shared a few treats with you.

Love,  
The Easter Bunny

Dear Sunrise Service Breakfast Crew, thank you for the wonderful pancake breakfast! Everyone enjoyed the wonderful food and fellowship following the service on the hill. A big thanks to Dave and Beth Moore who led the team. Also, to all the crew, Eugene, Jenny, Lily and I’m sure a few others who pitched in sight-unseen. And thanks to all the folks who donated the food items to make such a delicious meal.

Thanks again,  
MHUMC Youth Group

If you are in Junior or Senior High School please join our Group Wednesday Nights from 6 to 8pm. Contact Jeannie, or you can also access our website at [www.mhumc.com](http://www.mhumc.com) for a current schedule and list of events.

## Women’s Retreat

By Carol Swartz

All women of the church are invited to attend a Women’s Retreat at the home of Carol Swartz, on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The day will begin around 10:30am with a light brunch, followed by a songfest. After a brief break and going outdoors to enjoy the surroundings, we will reconvene our

fellowship time with a talk by our guest speaker, Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert of the Lake Merritt United Methodist Church in Oakland.

Many of you may have already met Mary Elyn from previous visits to our church, as she is married to our interim pastor, Rev. Jeff Kunkel. She is looking forward to meeting many of us and sharing her thoughts. The talk will be followed by a walk at the nearby Harvey Bear County Park. Upon return we will then have a closing dinner. Mark your calendars for this great day of fun, fellowship and camaraderie. For further information, please contact Carol Swartz.

## FEEDING THE HOMELESS SHELTER SEASON CLOSING

By Janet Braslin

I'd like to express a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to all who contributed food and volunteer serving time for the Armory this season which closed the end of March.

You were exceedingly generous and we had an abundance of food. Even at the last minute, folks stepped in to supply our emergency requests. This year the need, as expected, was greater than ever, and we saw children pretty regularly in the serving line, also. I can't emphasize too much how people in that situation enjoy variety, creativity and that special touch of home-made entrees and desserts.

We also had an abundance of enthusiastic servers. We had several very generous volunteers from outside the church (a first), and also many new volunteers within the church. Sometimes we even had to turn folks away (another first!).

I'm very proud of our church's ministry of outreach in this vital area. Plus, we have preserved our reputation as the very best cooks at the Armory. Let's do it again next season.

With appreciation,  
Janet Braslin

## Birthdays...

Fiona Sage = April 17<sup>th</sup>

The Clayton's puppy Luna will be one year old on Easter Sunday.

## Help Needed For Special Program At Food Bank

By Carol Frazer

The Second Harvest Food Bank, in conjunction with the U.S. Government, has implemented a new program called the "Stimulus Food Assistance Program". The program will start on Saturday, April 17, and continue on May 15, June 19, and July 17. Volunteers are needed at the Reach Out Food Bank (a branch of Second Harvest Food Bank) to help bag up produce, etc, and to hand out the food. You would be needed from 9:00-11:30a.m. on those Saturdays.

If you can help, please contact Debbie Molyneaux at 683-4849 or 500-5659. Men and teenagers would also be helpful.

**(Editor's Note:** It should also be mentioned that Carol Frazer has agreed to be our church nurturer, who will help set up meals for members who need them in the future. If you know of such a need, please contact Pastor Jeff, Megan Richardson, or John McCotter.)

## Mary's Musings...

*(Interesting church marquee sayings collected by Mary Ringo.)*

1. "Seven days without prayer makes one weak."
2. "You've seen the movie, now come read the book."
3. "About my book, there will be a test! -God
4. "What part of Thou Shalt Not... won't you understand?"
5. "The Ten Commandments are not multiple choice..."

## Out of the mouths of babes...

*(Excerpts from religious papers written by young children.)*

1. "In the first book of the Bible, Guinesses, God Got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off."
2. "Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came in pears."

3. "Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night."
4. "Samson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel-like Delilah."
5. "Samson slayed the Philistines with the Axe of the Apostles."

## MHUMC Book Club

By Megan Richardson

The Morgan Hill UMC Book Club will meet Thursday, April 15th, at 7:30 in the Annex. We are reading Dan Brown's new book, *The Lost Symbol*. For more information contact Megan Richardson.



*Pastor Jeff feeding his sheep...*

## Scenes from Easter Sunday...



*The thrill of the hunt!*



*The Youth leading Sunrise service.*

### *The GoodNews Letter*

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