

Good News



Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Opening Hearts, Opening Minds, and Opening Doors

Thoughts From Pastor Jeff...

During Lent, I am leading a class called God Moments with two groups, one on Wednesday evenings after our soup supper, and one after worship on Sunday. Together, we are learning to understand a God Moment as an awareness of God's will or presence or movement. In addition to studying how others have written about their God Moments, each of us in the group is writing a God Moment from their own life. I will invite folks from the classes to share their God Moment with the whole congregation during Sundays across the Easter season.

One of the tasks for a congregation during an interim time is to articulate a congregational identity. i.e. "We are a church which.....". Several weeks ago, your Ad. Council sponsored a congregational forum which discussed the question, "Can we claim an identity as a progressive Christian congregation? There was robust conversation about this. What became apparent to me was that the congregation's identity includes folk who see themselves as progressive Christians and folks who see themselves as traditional Christians - an important diversity which needs to be recognized and honored. It also became clear to me that there was little common understanding about our identity as United Methodist Christians. So, in coming months, you'll be learning more about the particular ways United Methodists are Christian, under the theme of Exploring Our United Methodist Heritage.

I look forward to our first Easter Sunday together. Bring a friend or neighbor to church that day!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Minutes of Administrative Council Meeting, February 14, 2010

Attending: Ed Church, Robin Church, Eugene Davis, Wanda Garrett, Jeff Kunkel, Kathy Liebschutz, Lynn Morgan, Megan Richardson, Tim Richardson, Mary Ringo, Dan Skeen (presiding), Debbie Skeen.

Agenda

1. Debrief from the 1/31/10 meeting on church identity
2. Church Secretary items
3. Finance
4. Buildings & Grounds

Minutes

1. Debrief from the 1/31/10 Meeting on Church Identity (Jeff)

On 1/31/10 we discussed the "8 Points of Progressive Christianity" (<http://www.tcpc.org/about/8points.cfm>), to see if this description fits us. The discussion at this meeting was intended to produce clarity about our identity.

a. Learnings – comments from individuals about what they learned from the discussion:

- The discussion posed questions we hadn't thought of, prompting research into the "8 points." Also prompted self-discovery.
- Research into the "8 points" before the meeting would have clarified their deeper meaning; the bullet-point summaries were inadequate.
- Maybe we don't have a common theme.
- There was some trouble listening.
- Concern about labeling the church, that it will exclude those who don't identify with the label.

- The power of our church is its diversity, and ability to get along without 100% agreement.
- How to say “everyone’s welcome” without getting specific?
- OK to describe us as “Methodist.”
- While there was general agreement on some aspects, it was not enough to say that we can be described as “Progressive”.

b. Plan – Jeff will meet with Dan S. and Lynn M. to determine next steps.

c. Jeff’s perspective – Based on his experience working with our church over the last 7 months, Jeff described how he sees us. He will be providing a more detailed description in the future; the following is a summary of his comments as related to the topic of the 1/31/10 meeting.

- We have theological diversity. Some members are notably progressive, while others are notably traditional.
- We are casual. This has benefits in helping folks feel welcome as they are, but also is a weakness. Related is our overall irregular attendance, which makes it hard to get to know people, and hard to follow through on commitments.

2. Church Secretary Items (sent by John McCotter)

a. SJSU Literacy program – Interested in using our Fellowship Hall from mid-June through mid-July for up to 8 courses, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at various times. They would pay us a nominal usage fee. John sent a reply with information and photographs of our facility, and awaiting a response. Consensus – We like having the church used for this type of activity, if it suits their needs.

b. Census Workers – Will be using the Fellowship Hall for about a week in late April, to assess their results. Exact dates are 4/23 and 4/26-29, 8am-5pm.

c. Stanford Blood Bank blood drive – Interested in using our Fellowship Hall for a blood drive. They would provide necessary equipment and canteen, as well as publicity. Consensus – Yes, let’s move forward with this.

d. Industrial Refrigerator – The Hacienda Valley Helping Hands group are still interested in

acquiring the industrial refrigerator in the kitchen, for use in distributing food to low-income elderly folks in their mobile home park. They would like to know how much we want for it. Previously (9/14/09) we assessed its value at \$2000-2800. We invite them to give us an offer.

e. Mushroom Mardi Gras – Groups and individuals requesting space. Consensus is that the Catherine Stone Circle quilt sale and the Youth Group shave-ice booth should get first choice. For-profit groups would not be appropriate.

3. Finance (Eugene)

a. Pledges – The Finance Committee is working on getting the pledges turned in, and on setting the 2010 budget.

b. RDA Loan – So that Eugene can discuss this loan with the loan company, he moved (and Lynn 2nd) that Ernie R (an authorized person) add Dell (as Trustees chair) and Eugene (as Finance chair) to the list of authorized people. We agreed unanimously.

c. 2009 Financial Summary – To be done shortly.

d. January Contributions – Look good. We paid the monthly pastoral pension.

e. Giving Made Easy – So that contributions can continue even if individuals are traveling or otherwise not at the church service, there are 2 easy methods for setting up automated giving. Many banks offer a bill-pay service, where you can arrange for a check to be sent on a regular (e.g. monthly) basis. Also, Eugene can set people up with an automated debit service. Also, Eugene has offering envelopes available for those who would like them. He will be putting spare envelopes in the sanctuary pews as well.

f. Facilities Usage Guidelines – We need to review the existing Facilities Usage Guidelines, to be sure they are still current. Who has a copy?

4. Building & Maintenance (Ed)

a. Exterior Painting – Colors have been selected. Because of the continuing rain, the painting project will be finished in Pentecost (not before Easter).

b. Maintenance Funds – Finance is setting up a monthly budget for maintenance expenses. In the mean-time, small expenses can be reimbursed now.

- Minutes respectfully submitted by Wanda G

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 17th. The day will begin around 10:30 a.m. 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. MaryElyn Bahlert of the Lake Merritt United Methodist Church in Oakland.

Many of you may have already met MaryElyn 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 at 408-981-5690.

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 Morgan Hill "Reach Out" facility to help bag up produce, etc., and to hand out the food. You would be needed from 9:00-11:30 a.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.)

Goodnews Interview: Steve Roth

By Jeannie C.

Where did you grow up?

Portola Valley, Ca.

What do you like most about MHUMC and why?

The people I think because the people are very friendly and warm and accepting and have good values.

What is your favorite food?

Petrале Sole

How long have you lived in Morgan Hill?

5 years

Which do you like better Easter or Christmas? Why?

Christmas. I like the trees and the lights.

If you could visit anywhere in the world where would it be? Why?

Greece. Because of the old stuff, the Greek stuff all the buildings, love to see it all.

What is your occupation?

Scientist.

What's the best part of your day?

Evening. Sitting around with my family. Dogs in our laps and family talking.

Goodnews Interview: Theresa Sage

By Marlena J.

Where did you grow up?

South San Francisco, Ca.

What do you like most about MHUMC and why?

The historical church, the wonderful people and the liberal theology.

(interview with Theresa, cont. from page 3)

What is your favorite food?

Bread of all kinds.

How long have you lived in Morgan Hill?

15 years.

Which do you like better Easter or Christmas? Why?

Easter, because there's lots of introspection and Easter eggs.

If you could visit anywhere in the world where would it be? Why?

Italy, because they have great food, lovely wines and historical churches.

What is your occupation?

An awesome teacher!

What's the best part of your day?

When my husband brings me coffee in bed to wake me up.

made it safe and sound, no injuries and fun had by all. Special thanks to Jeff McMillan as our chaperone.

The Youth will be serving at the homeless shelter on March 21st.

The youth sunrise service will be held on Easter morning, April 4. Meet at the church at 6:30am, walk up the hill for our outdoor service and then back to the church for breakfast. Dave and Beth Moore are making pancakes and need help to complete the breakfast ~let us know if you want to volunteer.

After the regular 10am worship on Easter the Youth hold an Easter egg hunt for the children. We need help with donations for the hunt. Candy, plastic eggs and small toys or stickers are appreciated. You can give your donations to any youth, Jeannie or there is a big box in the fellowship hall.

If you are a junior or senior in high school, please join us on Wednesday Nights from 6 to 8PM. Contact Jeannie at (408)981 4034, or you can access our church web site at www.mhumc.com for a current schedule and list of events.

News from the Youth

By Jeannie Clayton

The youth attended a personal safety clinic held at the Morgan Hill Dance studio, taught by a Fremont Police Officer who resides in Morgan Hill. This was a free class for the community and our youth learned some basic safety defense moves. Thank you to Laura D. for including us in this class!

Ski trip 2010 was a success. It was a beautiful day at the Bear Valley Ski Resort and it we

One of Our Treasures Celebrates a Milestone...

Phyllis Farris informs us that she will turn 91 on March 21st! Happy Birthday Phyllis!

The GoodNews Letter

United Methodist Church
17175 Monterey
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

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