

Good News



Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Opening Hearts, Opening Minds, and Opening Doors

Thoughts From Pastor Jeff...

As you read this, Mary Elyn and I will be somewhere in Italy, our first trip to that country.

We are meeting friends from London - one of whom is a priest - and we will stay mostly in convents and monasteries - Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Venice. I look forward to sharing about the trip upon my return.

While I'm away, preaching is ably covered by Gretchen Vandenberg, John McCotter, and Lynn Morgan - talented speakers from our own fold!

And Rev. Shim Habte, pastor of Gilroy UMC, will handle pastoral emergencies. I'll be back in the pulpit on May 23rd.

Thanks to all of you who so warmly greeted Mary Elyn during the Womens' Retreat and the Sunday she and I switched pulpits. She really enjoyed the folks of Morgan Hill UMC!

After each Sunday worship during June, I will be leading a membership and renewal class, which you can take to become a member - or to learn more about the tradition and renew your faith.

Things are improving on the grounds and with the church building - thanks to all who are assisting. And we now have a parking lot to the south of the church near the creek. The vacant lot and new parking belong to the wine bar to the south of the creek, but we are free to use it on Sundays.

Pastor Jeff

Administrative Council Meeting April 10, 2010

Attending: Janet Braslin, John Braslin, Ed Church, Robin Church, Jeannie Clayton, Eugene Davis, Carol Frazer, Wanda Garrett, Brad Gremban, Jeff Kunkel, Lynn Morgan, Johnny Ringo, Megan Richardson, Tim Richardson, Mary Ringo, Dan Skeen (presiding), Debbie Skeen, Carol Swartz, *Absent, notified in advance:* Kathy Liebschutz

Minutes

1. New Business

a. Use of neighboring property – Eugene noted that we have received notice that an establishment next door (corner of Monterey & 5th) will be opening soon and will be selling alcohol. We discussed what (if any) response we should give before the April 29 deadline. Possible benefits – improvement of the vacant lot next door; access to reception-type facilities for weddings. Concerns – noise during Sunday activities; boundary fence is weak and inadequate to protect our property. Suggested response – audio abatement on Sundays until about 2pm; parking control; improvement of common fence. We agreed that we should foster a good relationship with the business owner. Can Dell give guidance? *Followup from 4/14* – New owner is Rosie (of Rosie's at the Beach), establishment is to be a wine bar. Vacant lot will be paved parking lot, which we will be welcome to use.

b. Raleys'/Nob Hill grant – Jeannie noted that Raleys'/Nob Hill is offering \$7500 grants to local non-profits. Proposals are requested by April 19. Jeannie will check to see if we are eligible, then draft a proposal; Ed, Lynn, and Debby can edit.

c. Independence Day – Carol Swartz has been trying to contact the Independence Day committee regarding a parade float. There may also be

opportunities for us to special activities, such as the Youth Group's shave-ice stand, etc. on July 4, as it's a Sunday. Haven't heard if the parade time will be delayed, as it has for previous Sunday holidays.

2. Fundraiser – Jeannie was checking into us selling Debrito's caramel apples as a fundraiser. The commitment would be for at least 140 apples at \$10 each. We voted to start selling next Sunday (motion – Debby; 2nd, Mary; Vote – unanimous aye). *Followup from 4/12* – They are sold out until after July 9. General sentiment via email is to do this in early fall.

3. Building – Ed reported that a lot of hard workers have been preparing for painting and doing repairs. Some local youth are interested in helping, for community service credit. Helpers needed not only for painting, but for general support such as warning passers-by of paint overspray. Drop cloths are needed. Dan will get paint. Jeannie requested the work schedule be posted in the weekly announcement email.

4. Pastor's Notes – Pastor Jeff requested comments about Holy Week. From the group –

- Youth Sunrise Service was enjoyed. Could be more serious.

- The Lenten supper/discussion was enjoyed and beneficial, especially the "God Moments" writing exercises.

- Wished we would have had a Good Friday vigil, quiet time, stations of the cross, etc.

- In past years, we have enjoyed a Seder.

Lynn recalled early Methodist traditions of going out to those in need (e.g. in mines) and holding small group meetings. Do we want to incorporate something like this in our identity and in search for next pastor? Pastor Jeff will be starting a monthly sermon series on our Methodist heritage, to explore these traditions. In June he will start a 5-session membership & renewal class.

Lynn asked when we officially start working with the District Superintendent to select a new pastor. It is January 15. Thus we need to have agreement as to what we would like in our next pastor by approx. this November.

Pastor's vacation will be for about 3 weeks, 4/28 through approx. 5/22. During that time, pastoral care will be provided by someone

yet to be identified. Preaching will be done by Gretchen Vandenberg, John McCotter, and Lynn Morgan.

5. Finance – Eugene provided a giving report (available separately), which shows we are currently meeting our budget. The city loan is paid off. Pastoral pension is up to date, as are all other bills. The group requested quarterly report of giving to be published in the bulletin. An individual has offered a no-interest loan, if we foresee a significant expenditure. New software is being set up, starting with the directory. It can publish a directory with photos we provide, so there is no need for a directory through a company such as Olan Mills now.

Respectfully submitted by Wanda Garrett

Thanks for Donations

by Wanda Garrett

Each year the Women's Group (UMW) distributes the proceeds of its fund-raising Annual Rummage Sale. This year, contributions were sent to UMCOR, for Haiti Earthquake Relief; Community Solutions' La Isla Pacifica shelter from domestic violence; Second Harvest's Reach Out food pantry; the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, for worldwide support; and some was reserved for projects around the church. We recently received notes from two of these organizations. The "thanks" are directed not only to the Women's Group, but to the church and community who support the Rummage Sale.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to Reach Out. We appreciate your help, as we serve approximately 500 families per month.

Gratefully,

Joan Della Maggiore

Reach Out

Dear Wanda,

We are very grateful for the continued support the Women's Group has afforded our domestic violence program. Please know your collective altruism makes a huge difference in the lives of women and children residing at La Isla Pacifica.

Regards,

Perla P. Flores

Director, Solutions to Violence

Community Solutions

News from the Youth

By Jeannie Clayton

After making Lenten promises, learning and listening about God moments and preparing ourselves for Easter sunrise service—April was a great month for our group to get back into our regular routine. We meet every week and have a meal together, share our “pows and wows” from the week and study the bible trying to find the way on our spiritual journeys.

Our flamingo’s are out of hibernation—be on the look-out! They might just be readying for a visit to your home! They are also available for birthdays and celebrations—Let us know.

If you are in Junior or Senior High School please join our group Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. Contact Jeannie or you can also access our website @ www.mhumc.com for a current schedule and list of events.

Goodnews Interview: Jake Jensen

Interviewed by Fiona S.

Where did you grow up?
Morgan Hill

What do you like most about MHUMC and why?
Everyone is very accepting

What is your favorite food?
Chicken pot pie

How long have you lived in Morgan Hill?
22years

Which do you like better Easter or Christmas? Why?
Christmas, because people treat people better.

If you could visit anywhere in the world where would it be? Why?
Egypt because of all the history and the pyramids.

What is your occupation?
Engineer aid.

What’s the best part of your day?
When I come home to see my family.

Goodnews Interview: Megan Richardson

Interviewed by Fiona S.

Where did you grow up?
Eufaula, Alabama

What do you like most about MHUMC and why?
The people, because the people are caring and serious about their spiritual journey.

What is your favorite food?
Any kind of soup

How long have you lived in Morgan Hill?
Never have. I have lived in Gilroy for 7 years.

Which do you like better Easter or Christmas? Why?
Christmas, because the decorations and celebrating Christ’s birth and my daughter was born on Christmas.

If you could visit anywhere in the world where would it be? Why?
Norway. I want to see the Northern lights.

What is your occupation?
I raise alpaca.

What’s the best part of your day?
Waking up and feeding my animals and walking the dog. And spending time in the evening with my husband when he gets home.

Mary's Musings...

(Interesting church marquee sayings collected by Mary Ringo.)

1. "The Easter Bunny Did Not Rise From the Dead."
2. "Eternity: Smoking or Non-smoking?."
3. "If Someone is Without a Smile, Give Them Yours."
4. "The Best Thing to Spend on Your Children is Time."
5. "Jesus: Coming Soon."

Out of the mouths of babes...

(Excerpts from religious papers written by young children.)

1. "Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients."
2. "The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mound Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments."
3. "The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple."
4. "The seventh commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery.'"
5. "Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol."

MHUMC Book Club

By Megan Richardson

The Morgan Hill UMC Book Club will meet Thursday, May 20th, at 7:30 in the Annex. We are reading Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. For more information contact Megan Richardson.

Greetings from Rev. Kintner...

(A while back, we received this email from Rev. Dwight Kintner, former pastor of our church. I apologize for not getting it in the newsletter sooner. -JM)

Dear John and other friends at Morgan Hill,
Thanks for the news of your work with the church. It brings back my memory of the tree stumps we found under the church when we put in the new foundation. Keep up the good work!
- Dwight Kintner



Three of our treasures!

(Phyllis Farris, Jeanne Urton, Phyllis Bellet)

Painting/maintenance Update

The weather has once again been obstructing our efforts to finish painting the church. If it isn't rain interrupting things, it is high winds that make spray painting the church impossible. Ed Church and others have spearheaded the effort to finally get the job done, but nature has not been cooperating. Please spare them a kind word whenever possible.

We have made other progress. Our friend Tom has improved the sprinkler system and fixed another leaky faucet. Mary Ringo has weeded the play areas and has even planted a small garden at the end of one of them. I replaced the dead apple sapling in the courtyard with a tea tree. Feel free to sign up to join us! (-JM)

Exciting Summer Mission Opportunity for the Youth

By Jeannie Clayton

I found a great mission trip for our youth this summer. They have a minimum for the group so we will need 5 youth to participate, plus one more adult leader. Please look at your calendars and check out the website for all the details. I can't move forward unless we have enough youth.

The dates would be Sunday June 20 - Friday June 25.

The cost would be \$346 per person including all meals and overnight stays. Please don't let the cost stop you from committing. We will have a fundraiser (spaghetti dinner) plus continue flamingo-ing to bring the cost down.

We will be staying in Oakland and doing mission work in Oakland and San Francisco. The mission organization is called Center for Student Missions.

The website is <http://www.csm.org/>

This is the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area housing description.

CSM Bay area currently has two housing sites. Both of our housing locations are currently situated in Oakland, CA.

Bay Area Christian Connection is our larger housing site. This is a church building in Downtown Oakland. Groups will be housed in the Church's basement and should expect to either sleep on bunk beds or floor mats. We have two extra rooms for overflow, and share a shower facility with another church ministry.

Harbor House Ministries is the location of our second housing site. This ministry rests in the heart of the San Antonio neighborhood of Oakland. Sleeping quarters are located on the second floor of an old Victorian home that is now used as the home base for some great ministries. This site has three bedrooms where students sleep, and one debriefing/lounge space. Groups can expect to be sleeping on either bunk beds or floor mats at this location as well.

We can not do this trip unless we have at least 5 youth. Please let me know if this is possible for your family.

--

Peace,
Jeannie

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month

Every child deserves a loving family. If you would consider opening your heart and your home to a waiting foster child, or volunteering to help someone who has, please visit

www.helponechild.org or contact Judy@helponechild.org.

Bringing Habitat to Capitol Hill

By Tracy Luath, President



For three days in late February, I attended Habitat on the Hill, a lobbying and advocacy conference organized by Habitat for Humanity International in Washington, DC. Along with 280 other Habitat affiliate representatives, I met with members of Congress and key White

House officials to push for future funding and support for low-income housing programs.

Specifically, I met with the offices of Representatives Eshoo, Honda, and Pelosi, as well as Senators Feinstein and Boxer. We discussed four major issues that affect Habitat affiliates throughout the country:

1. Maintain the level of capacity building funding provided for low-income housing;
2. Re-instate S.H.O.P. (Self Help Ownership Program) funding in future budgets;

3. Allow states to exempt Habitat affiliates from complying with the strict regulations mandated by the SAFE Act and intended to regulate bad commercial lenders; and
4. Ensure that all future appropriations for Haiti disaster relief include a shelter component.

Habitat on the Hill provided me with the opportunity to deliver our message to national policy-makers, but equally important are the activities we all do here at home. What can you do to help? Write or call your Representatives and Senators to share your thoughts about the need for support for low-income housing here in Santa Clara County.

- Tracy Lauth
 President, Board of Directors,
 Habitat For Humanity, Silicon Valley

Remembering Linz, Austria

By John McCotter

The sudden peace of your square was like a sharp intake of breath.
 Your gilded statue celebrates escape from plague and death.
 I forgot the upward sweep of your square at its south end;
 did not recall the branching streets that follow Danube's bend.

In that magical dusk, the paving stones reflected twilight.
 The square swam in soft amber—not quite day and not quite night.
 Like a child released from church, while everyone else is inside,
 I see that walk as stolen time—minutes set aside.

My old heart was full-to-bursting as we walked that twilight square.
 I had come to pay homage to the boy who once lived there.
 In retrospect, the boy seemed frail—a broth of nerves and fears.
 I felt he would be pleased to know he'd lived so many years.

The GoodNews Letter

United Methodist Church
 17175 Monterey
 Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Address Service
 Requested

May 2010
 (408) 779-4044

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Morgan Hill, Ca
 Permit No. 15