



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST

Sharing the Good News of Mission Hills United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation

God
is still
speaking,

February 16, 2010

Pastoral or Program – the Story of Our Church

You will hear a lot of talk in our strategic planning gatherings about our becoming a “program church.” I thought it might be helpful to describe specifically what that means so that you may be better informed as we move forward together.

For many years Mission Hills United Church of Christ had a membership of about 150 people with a worshipping congregation of approximately 110 each Sunday. The number of our shut-in members was about a dozen. That size church constitutes what church planners call a “pastoral church.” In such congregations the pastor has an obvious presence at everything – all the meetings, fellowship gatherings, and worship, as well as performs all the pastoral responsibilities of the office, e.g. weddings, funerals, confirmation and the like. Program churches typically have about 250 members and about 150-180 in worship which is exactly where our numbers are currently.

In the program church, the pastor continues to fulfill all the pastoral duties as listed above, however, the mere size of the congregation necessitates that others take responsibility for some of the needs that surface in the community’s life. As the congregation grows it becomes increasingly impossible for the pastor to be at all church functions. The church begins to rely on other staff or some of its members to facilitate programs that enhance congregational life. In short, this organic process of meeting congregational needs through a programmatic structure helps to keep the community vital, relevant, and essential to everyone involved.

The real key to the transition is to maintain the “family feeling” of the smaller congregation while the membership continues to grow. That becomes the responsibility of each member (and the pastor) as smaller groups within the larger community form and contribute to the vitality of the whole. As MHUCC transitions naturally into a larger family your participation becomes even more important as your gifts are shared to strengthen the body. You may continue that participation as you engage in the cottage meetings (that will take place soon) and discuss the long range plans for our church. By doing so you will help to keep alive the wonderful spirit we all cherish in our church.

Yours in the journey,

COFFEE ORDER TIME!



Remember to order your Fair Trade Coffee products or buy from our stock on Sunday, February 21. The Fair Trade Coffee table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall after church.

My family and I appreciate very much the love and support of my church family. It has helped us so much during a difficult time - the loss of our beloved John. We thank you all very much.

~Ruth Ambler

Mission Hills United Church of Christ

4070 Jackdaw Street
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 296-2169

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Dr. M. Scott Landis |
| Pastor Emeritus | Rev. Dr. Joe Sandven |
| Pastor Emeritus | Chaplain E.V. Lyons, Jr. |
| Pastoral Intern | Luke Williams |
| Minister of Christian Education | Santina Poor |
| Youth Leader | Keith Warrick |
| Director of Music | Max Chodos |
| Organist | Rick Parks |
| Office Manager / Bookkeeper | Charlotte Wilder |

www.missionhillsucc.org
missionhillsucc@sbcglobal.net

ATTENDANCE:
February 14, 2010 - 152

REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 9 am to 3 pm

FEEDING AMERICA



February 23rd is this month's distribution.

As always we need help for:

- **setting up (10:30 to noon),**
- **distribution (noon to 2:00) and**
- **clean-up (2:00 to about 3:00).**

See you there!

THIS FRIDAY...

San Diego Opera's Director of Education and Outreach, Dr. Nick Reveles, will present a free lecture at our church on Friday evening, February 19th. He will provide a valuable insight into Nabucco with special emphasis on the Old Testament backgrounds.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend this event. Please come and bring a friend or neighbor.

Date: Friday, February 19, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: MHUCC chapel

For more information about this lecture, please contact Peggy Boyce at (619) 298-0215.

Memorial Society Forum - Feb. 28

Do you have your "End of Life" plans in order? The San Diego Memorial Society has a long history of providing information and cost savings to consumers for simple, dignified, and inexpensive cremation and burial services. A representative from the Society will provide an informational presentation in the Commons following worship on Sunday, February 28. If you have any questions, please see Dorothy Stock before or after worship services.

BIBLICAL LITERACY STUDY



You are invited to join an exploration of what we hear, know and wonder about the Bible. We will discuss your questions about what you've been told, what you know in your heart, what you wonder and even what

you fear about current issues floating about in our society.

The gatherings will be facilitated by the Reverend Ross Putnam (member of MHUCC and husband of Paula Elizabeth – intentional interim at Kensington UCC) with help and insight from Santina Poor. The gatherings will be held **Mondays, from 7pm-8:30 March 1, 7, 15 and 22**. Questions and sign ups are being coordinated by Santina, (619) 296-2169 or bslpoor@yahoo.com.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

- Young Adults Group -

Trusty Tuesdays is now meeting at the church, in the upstairs Community Room. Child care will be provided on an RSVP basis only. Contact Ed for further information at tapkae@tapkae.com.

Youth Group

Youth liturgy is this Sunday. Everyone should arrive by 9:30 am. Heidy Jimenez and Megan Merrick will be our liturgists.

Also, I need to know if you plan on attending the **Youth United In Mission** trip to San Bernardino. I have to send in our early registration form in order to keep our costs at \$15 each. If you still need a registration form, please let me know ASAP. Will see you at Sunday Worship.

Keith ~ 619-395-7125

MHUCC CALENDAR



Every Sunday: *Facets of Faith - 9 am*
Worship - 10 am
Youth Forum - 10am
Children's Choir Rehearsal - 11:30am
Every Thursday: *Choir Rehearsal - 7:30pm*

This week

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday

Contemplative Service - 8am
Partnership Service at University City UCC
2877 Governor Drive, San Diego, 92122
- 6:30pm

Thursday, February 18

Personnel Comm. - 6:30pm

Friday, February 19

SD Opera Nabucco Presentation - 7pm

Sunday, February 21

Nominating Comm. - 11:30am
Fellowship: Bowling - **postponed to 2/28**

Monday, February 22

Preschool Board Mtg. - 12:15pm

Tuesday, February 23

Feeding America - 12pm
Young Adults Group - 7pm
Membership & Growth Comm. - 7pm





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If you wish to be removed from this mailing,
please contact the church office.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ALL ARE WELCOME AT MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Church is a church without dogma where people are free to explore and deepen their faith in an environment open to questioning in the richness of our strong Christian heritage.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a progressive, inclusive Protestant denomination that celebrates diversity and community action.

UCC churches seek to unite people from all ethnic, racial and social backgrounds. Our churches and ministries are active worldwide, working in communities to promote social justice and better living standards.

***No Matter Who You Are
Or Where You Are On Life's Journey
You Are Welcome Here!***

Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ