A Denominational Update  
by Mark Inouye

I wanted to take a moment and give you an update on the status of our discernment process with our denomination, the PC(USA). As you know, for many years now our church’s leadership has been concerned with its direction. You can read about the history and the reasons for this concern on our website (www.mhpc.org/#/about-us/denominational-issue). This led to the Session voting last October to recommend that we leave the PC(USA) and re-affiliate with a denomination more in line with our congregation’s theological perspective and missional emphasis – eventually recommending we join ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians).

After conducting a non-binding straw poll which indicated that an overwhelming majority of the congregation supported the session’s recommendation (92%), the Session notified the Presbytery of San Jose that we would like to enter into their “gracious dismissal” process in order to discern together whether this might truly be God’s will for MHPC. While this process was delayed because of national denominational issues, it is now back on track and we anticipate being assigned a team from the presbytery (called a PET – Presbytery Engagement Team) to begin the process this summer.

Two primary things will happen. First, the PET will do an assessment of the congregation to see if the session’s evaluation of the congregation was accurate. How this happens will be up to the PET and has not been determined for sure. If they conclude (as we anticipate they will) that the Session’s congregational evaluation was accurate, the PET would then enter into a negotiation phase with our Session, during which the details of our re-affiliation (including financial terms) would be worked out. Assuming mutually agreeable terms can be reached, this would then be brought to the congregation for a vote at a called congregational meeting, where a 75% vote would be needed in order to pass.

A few things. First, while we don’t know for sure, this process will likely take time (six-nine months) to finish, so we ask you to remain patient. As always, if you have questions, please don’t hesitate to talk to a session member or to me.

Second, because our desire in this is to remain faithful to the Lord and to follow His leading, let’s make sure we are bathing this whole process in prayer – asking God for His wisdom and direction.

Which leads to this final thing – a reminder to all of us not to get distracted by this from what God is doing here at MHPC, for He is doing some truly exciting things! Within these pages you are going to find evidence of this. Lives are being touched, people are growing closer to Jesus, needs are being met – and for this I’m grateful. So keep on being the church that God has called us to be, and the rest will take care of itself.

Peace,
Mark

To contact Pastor Mark, email him at marki@mhpc.org or phone the office T-F (408) 779-2820.
Noticed anything different in your mailbox this edition? CONNECTIONS, formerly known as The Lion’s Share, was given a new name last quarter and is receiving a facelift this time around!

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted... a time to keep, and a time to cast away... God has... made everything beautiful in its time.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,10-11, ESV)

We are preparing to move forward in a new and exciting way as a magazine rather than the newsletter format we formerly sent to your homes. We recognize that you get the Calendar weekly in your bulletins and can look up events online at our wonderful new website, www.mhpc.org. If you have a concern about a particular area of ministry, we welcome a visit from you in the church office or encourage you to connect with an Elder during coffee hour after service.

In our effort to best serve all of you, we’ve brainstormed ideas about how to keep CONNECTIONS fresh and relevant for our wide variety of busy members and friends.

We are so blessed to be in the family of God together here at MHPC. Staff is always seeking ways to serve your needs and we are hopeful this new format does just that. We hope you find these articles stimulating extensions of your faith as well as informative about the various movements of God among us.

If you have ideas for articles or comments for us, email me! (mhpc@mhpc.org). Have a safe and blessed summer!

Lynn serves as the Administrative Assistant to the church and a volunteer on the Worship and Music and ADMIN committees as well as a singer in the Celebration Choir.

Contact her via email: MHPC@MHPC.ORG or phone the church office 408.779.2820 weekday mornings.
SESSION Welcomes New Members by, MJ Heacox

On May 11 Session met at Gwenn Tyler’s home to discuss where we are in respect to the goals set at prior retreats, whether we are fulfilling our Mission Statement and to set goals for the coming year. During the process MHPC weakness and strengths were discussed. The elders are in agreement that our focus should be on discipleship and outreach.

Since the last report session has been pleased to receive 10 new members: Arline Silva, Brian Martini, Joy Chalmers, Tamara Hunt, John Phillips, Jennifer Phillips, Eric Alfaro, Veronica Alfaro, Lynn Miller and Wendi Miller. Welcome to Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church!

MJ serves faithfully as Clerk of Session. Her careful attention to detail keeps our Session notes catalogued and our church stats up to date.

MAD Friday Changes Life by Shari Grover

About three years ago, a 3rd grader named Shelby Andrade came to MAD Friday for the very first time. She knew no one at our church, but received a MAD Friday flyer at her school, Jackson Elementary. The flyer described activities she already enjoyed - music, crafts and friends - so she thought MAD Friday would be fun, and convinced her mother to sign her up.

When she came to MAD Friday, Shelby enjoyed herself very much. The leaders were friendly, and she especially enjoyed the crafts. Shelby made new friends. She enjoyed the performance, and her family came to see her sing.

Shelby’s enthusiasm touched her mother, Stephanie Olson. The very next Sunday, Shelby insisted the family attend church! Stephanie works long hours as a Firm Administrator/Bookkeeper for her family’s firm, CPA business, Olson and Company. But Stephanie started coming to worship services on Sunday mornings, and brought Shelby’s older brother, Willy. Just a few months after their initial introduction to MAD Friday, Stephanie took the church “101” class and decided to become a church member. Willy also started attending. Stephanie says that she had always known there was a God, but something had been missing. She had never had a relationship with Jesus before. Through the songs and corporate prayer, Stephanie learned to talk to Jesus herself.

Shelby has attended every MAD Friday program since that first semester and has been a wonderful participant. She is now a 6th grade student and attending RAD night. We are grateful that God used MAD Friday to share His love with this precious family. They are a blessing to our church, and we pray that MAD Friday can be used even more as an outreach tool of our church to bring others into a saving relationship with Him.
A note from Shari, our Children and Family Ministries director: If you’d be interested in helping with our next MAD Friday starting in September, we always need volunteers, especially more “Table Parents” on our eight Friday evenings. Table Parents simply share dinner with a group of 6-8 children and facilitate the Bible discussions. Please email Shari at sharig@mhpc.or for more information.

A “Beautiful” Way to Love Our Neighbor as Ourselves by, Stephen Beard

Beautiful Day is a movement, one that I’m happy to say Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church became a vital part of this year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. In 2004 this idea was incubated here in Silicon Valley, where so many little ideas grow up to change the world.

A man by the name of Jon Talbert asked himself, “What would it look like if we actually lived and loved like Jesus did? What impact would that have on our communities?”

Along with some other churches in his community, Jon began by connecting Christians with local schools and just tackling whatever they needed, one day a year. Before long, the list of volunteers began to dwarf the work, so Beautiful Day grew. The projects got bigger. There were more of them. So too the volunteers and donors grew. Jon got inquiries from nearby communities asking what they could do. Then he got requests from not so nearby communities. This year, 2013, the 10th year since its inception, Beautiful Day 2013 saw over 6,000 volunteers across many communities complete hundreds of projects.

Here in Morgan Hill and San Martin, we completed 6 meaningful projects. Many organizations and businesses contributed to the cause in both cash and materials to make these projects possible. A Tool Shed, Coyote Valley Nursery, Cyclone Fence and Iron, Home Depot (Morgan Hill and Gilroy) Lowe’s (San Jose and Gilroy) Morgan Hill Rotary, Pine Cone Lumber, Recology, Security Fencing, Suretech Fence Systems, and U-Save Rockery all made significant donations. If you patronize these organizations, please make it a point to thank them for their support. Four churches participated in coordinating the Morgan Hill and San Martin projects, Community Christian, Morgan Hill Bible, Morgan Hill Presbyterian, and Westhills. MHPC had 3 project leads, Dave Raymaker and Mark Markham, who led the Advent carport project, and Tom McClung, who led the Advent San Martin project.
Many thanks to each of them, as there was a lot of preparation and coordination required to manage these projects. In all, three hundred volunteers participated on April 27th! Beautiful Day was recognized on May 15th by the Morgan Hill City Council where Mayor Tate called the size and scope of the volunteer effort “unprecedented in city history”. Considering this was our first full year participating in Beautiful Day, that comment is quite a testimony to the power of grace! It’s also an emphatic answer to the question Jon posed in 2004.

While Beautiful Day 2013 was by all accounts a success, it is by no means over. After all, to love like Jesus did, we cannot begin to restrict compassionate service to an event. We cannot put, “love my neighbor” on our calendar and then check it off, as if we are done for the year. That is not at all Christ-like love. Jesus’ love is all the time and to all people, as we know. The idea of having a day, a day we work together as a Christian community (larger than any one church) served some important purposes, however. It allowed us to accomplish more than we could ever have done on our own because we could pool talent and resources. It connected us with our Christian neighbors through service. It also connected us with our schools and other non-profits in need in our communities. Hopefully being involved in that day of service also lit a fire under many of us to do more. When we see the need in our community, we should feel compassion and want to be part of meeting those needs. That’s Christ-like love. I’m thankful that our Session had the wisdom to decide to participate in Beautiful Day in 2013, and appreciative of the opportunity to serve as our congregation’s liaison. It was a very rewarding experience for me personally.

It remains to be seen where this experience will take us. I can report that there have been many discussions between the churches who participated about what we might be able to do together before the next Beautiful Day comes around. The Morgan Hill School District has expressed a very sincere appreciation for the work we did and would love to partner with us on future projects. Advent already has expressed a desperate need for more work on their group home in San Martin. The needs in our community do not come around once a year. The opportunity to show compassion and grace to our neighbors is not limited to one day per year. My prayer for our church is that we would look for ways to continue to treat community service and love of neighbor as an act of worship, either independently or in partnership with nearby churches.

Individually, I hope this experience moved those who participated to want to do more. As Jon Talbert said in a recent interview, "My desire is that individuals would embrace the idea of Beautiful Day and be always looking for an opportunity to ‘love their neighbor.’ You don’t have to wait for an event to do something heroic in someone’s life. You just need to jump in and do something." Amen to that.

Stephen Beard also serves as Moderator to our board of Deacons. If you have a Deacon related concern, please contact him via email at SFO1SJ@YAHOO.COM or phone him at 408-757-9802.
PARTING THOUGHTS

We hope this issue of CONNECTIONS has served to stimulate thoughts and excite you about some of the things happening at MHPC and how our family of faith can impact the community around us with the ways we choose to live our lives. Whether or not you participated in Beautiful Day or have your own ways of serving, we know that Pastor Mark was accurate in his article when he noted how lives are being touched here in Morgan Hill. May the Lord continue to bless each of you with good health and a desire to grow closer and closer to Him each day.

CONTACT US...

For help and questions:

**STAFF: (408) 779-2820**

- **Pastor:** Mark Inouye (ext. 11)
- **Student Ministries:** Justin Lopez (ext. 14)
- **Children’s Ministries:** Shari Grover (ext. 13)
- **Choir Director:** Stan George
- **Worship Leader:** Daniel Dupre
- **Organist/Pianist:** Marilyn Markham
- **Women’s Ministries:** Sue Sholer (408-779-2689)
- **Men’s Ministries:** Ed Wong (408-776-0306)
- **Administrative Assistant:** Lynn Wong (ext. 10), Hours: M - F 8am -1pm
- **Nursery Attendant:** Esther Lentz

**VISITATION MINISTRY**

*Drop by to spread the love of Christ...*

Susie Campolong,

Visitation Ministry coordinator, invites you to join her Thursday mornings at 11 or the 1st Saturday of each month at 11. She takes people over to Hillview Convalescent Hospital (in our backyard) to visit with those who are unable to get out and about. Contact Susie: 408-779-4501.

**NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTION:** Forget to bring your checkbook on Sunday morning? Traveling this summer? No worries. Now that we have an online giving option, you can donate to the church anytime and anyplace. Simply click on the "$" donate icon at the bottom of our website (www.mhpc.org), and you can donate to the church electronically. We use PayPal, but you can donate even if you don’t have a PayPal account. Questions? Contact our Elder of Finance, Curt Carrender, at curt@thinkifyit.com

**HAPPENINGS**

**NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTION:** If you are looking for fun with folks who are “Older and Wiser in the Lord,” contact: Warren & Betty Blakley, 408-779-2471

**O.W.L.s (55+)**

If you are looking for fun with folks who are “Older and Wiser In the Lord,”

to fellowship with, contact:

Warren & Betty Blakley, 408-779-2471
Join us 8/18 after the 2nd service for the annual MHPC Picnic!

Food and fun for the whole family!
Potluck lunch
Games
Iced Treats

Bring chairs or blankets for sitting and a dessert for sharing!

See you there!

STUDENT MINISTRIES announces the summer versions of our JUNIOR (Friday nights) and SENIOR high (Sunday nights) Youth Groups, and are even higher energy than our school year versions!

The groups provide students a chance to grow in their relationship with Jesus through great teaching and music, and of course, wild and crazy activities/games/competition. FREE—call Justin Lopez for info and to sign up! 408-779-2820, ext 14.

6:30-9pm Fridays: Summer Comp (Middle School)

6:30-9pm Sundays: ECHO Face-Off (High School)

Students entering grades 9-12