Dear Friends,

On that first Christmas, an angel appeared to a group of shepherds and proclaimed:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

During Advent we celebrate this truth – the truth that whatever else Christmas is, it is meant to be “good news.” It is good news because the message of Christmas is not one of fear but one of “great joy” – something we should be excited about. But note this – that according to the angel, the good news of Christmas is not just for us, but is meant to be “for all the people.” We are not to keep it to ourselves, but to share it with everyone.

One way every one of us can be involved in doing this is by inviting people to come to our Christmas Eve Candlelight services, so that they can hear the Christmas story and rub shoulders with His people. Did you know that statistics tell us that all around you are people who would be more than happy to come to a church service (especially during the Christmas season) and that all they are waiting for is someone to ask them? Tens of thousands of your neighbors here in Morgan Hill and the surrounding community just waiting for an invitation. Be praying that God would open a door for you to invite one of them – I believe that as you do God will honor it by bringing someone to you that He wants there.

We will have two services that evening (5:00 PM and 9:00 PM), each with its own character and focus – both of which will end with what might be considered traditional candle lighting.

**The 5:00 PM service is our Family Candlelight Service.** It is meant for the whole family, young and old, to be together. It is a little shorter, and features a children’s sermon, songs by our children’s choir, as well as traditional carols, singing, and a devotional message.

**The 9:00 PM service is our Traditional Candlelight Service** that is led by our adult choir. Of course children are welcome at this service as well; however, the later hour makes it a little tougher for those with younger children.

Please be praying that God would use this Advent season to not only help us experience the “great joy” of the good news, and also to help it be known to “all the people.”

Peace,
Mark
Merry Christmas! Isn’t it wonderful to be able to greet each other freely with that phrase? My prayer for each of you is that no matter how you commemorate the blessed birth of our Savior, you’ll be filled with His love for you!

Life at church is busy with lots of great activities for kids of all ages!

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS** - Help decorate with Christmas poinsettias! Forms in Narthex can be submitted in offering plate or church office.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th. Merry Christmas!

**December**

16th **CHRISTMAS CHOIR GRADES K-5** 11:20pm room 3, contact Renee (RMDEVILLEZ@aol.com) to sign up. Your child can sing at the 5pm Christmas Eve service!

16th **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** 2:30pm, Sanctuary, followed by cookie reception. Childcare available. Tickets on sale in FH or office.

21st **RAD MIDDLE SCHOOL**: Christmas party/ELF movie night Dec 21 6:30-8:30 in the youth room. Parents, if you’d like to help out we could use some cookies for the night. Contact: David Frederick.

23rd **ECHO HIGH SCHOOL** Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange Dec 23 6:30-8:30 at the Schnorr home (12285 Heritage Way Gilroy, CA). We will have a sit down dinner, the gift exchange, a photo booth and other activities set up. Dress: Have fun and dress fancy Schmancy, but not one will be excluded from the night.

24th **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:** 5pm family friendly with childcare; 9pm traditional, no childcare.

**AUTUMN MEMORIES**

Special thanks to our photographers who submitted photos from events (some church and others with church members)!
SESSION NOTES

MJ Heacox, Clerk of Session

As you are aware, Session has been quite busy as of late. I have no formal updates and no new members to report since the Fall issue of the Lion’s Share, but I will update everyone in the next issue after the annual meeting of the congregation.

MJ Heacox
Clerk of Session

DEACONS DEN

Stephen Beard, Moderator

Please let Stephen Beard, Moderator, know of any needs with which the Deacons can assist: 408-757-9802 or email SFO1SJB@YAHOO.COM

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Shari Grover, Director 779-2820, ext. 13

SUNDAYS: Nursery - Birth up to age 4, lovingly cared for in our Shepherd’s Gate Nursery program, offered during both the 9 and 10:45 am services.

All other children begin in the worship service in the Sanctuary, then are led by a teacher to Sunday School after the Children’s Sermon.

Grades P-2: Preschool through 2nd graders grow in faith through Bible stories and activities in Room 6, both services.

Grades 3-5: An exciting large group/small group program is happening in Room 8 during both services.

Join our Christmas Eve Children Choir

Children Ages 5 to 11 (Grades K to 5)

Our children’s choir for the Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service will meet TWICE:

Sundays: December 16 and December 23

Time: During the 10:50 Service Sunday School Hour - approximately 11:20am

Place: Room 3

Bring your child to the Church Service and have them attend the Children’s Sermon. After the Children’s Sermon the children will go to Room 3 to practice the songs. We will perform them on Christmas Eve at the Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service. This is a great place to bring family to watch your little ones perform and participate as a family in our Christmas Eve service.

Performance is Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 PM.

Children who are performing should arrive at 4:30 PM to prepare and go over last minute details. Performers should wear nice, dressy Christmas clothing.

FAMILY LEAVE

The Grover’s have adopted little Hannah Jean Grover, from mainland China. This means Shari will be taking a break from regular duties here at church while she helps Hannah adjust to life in Morgan Hill. Please keep her in prayer and contact Renee DeVillez if you have any Children’s Ministry questions.

Hannah Jean Grover, born April 24, 2011

Sunday School Volunteers Needed!

We are committed to providing great Sunday experience to the children among us. While we have great teachers, we are always searching for others in the congregation whom God might be calling to serve Him through Children’s Ministry.
Please help us to bless them by signing up to teach. We have easy curriculum and will guide you through each step. Please let the office know 408-776-2820 if you are experiencing a call to serve. ☺

MAD FRIDAY ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - let Shari know if you can help with MAD Friday - Serve Jesus by loving kids! grover45@verizon.net or 750-4305.

MAD Friday

January 25-March 23rd

We are looking forward to a great new semester of MAD Friday, Jan. 25 – Mar. 23, with our performance on Sun., Mar. 25th.

Registration is filled on a first come, first served basis, so please don’t delay getting your form returned to the church office ATTN: MAD Registrar with your Medical release and check! Forms will be on our church website which is (www.mhpc.org).

Please use or give to any family you know with children between 4 and 12! It’s really important that a check and a fully filled out form are submitted in order to complete registration! Slots really fill fast and we hate to turn anyone away but we only have so much space! Please don’t delay!

UPCOMING DATES:

HIGH SCHOOL:

12/23 Christmas Dinner and white Elephant Gift Exchange–

We will be meeting offsite at the Schnorrs home from 6:30-8:30 for a great dinner and gift exchange.

For the white elephant gift remember it doesn’t have to be new, but can’t be junk… and often the best gifts are the ones you already have hidden away in your closet or garage.

Have fun and dress up a bit for the night! Remember, this could be a chance to dress up!

Address: 12285 Heritage Way Gilroy, CA.

Go down Watsonville rd towards Gilroy and make your first right turn after you pass Uvas Rd. That will put you on Heritage Way. The house is the first driveway on the left (past the small bridge).

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Friday Dec 21st – Movie and Cookie Night

Yup, it is time to watch Elf again. We will have a night of cookies and a movie on our giant
projector with great surround sound in the youth room.

Normal meeting time from 6:30-8:30!
What do you need to do?

Invite a friend!
Dress like an Elf or super Christmasy!

Parents, if you want to help we could use some cookies!
Contact Tato at tato@mhpc.org if you're able to help.

We will end the night with a short message about Jesus. So this is a good chance for any friends you bring to hear about Jesus.

NO RAD on 12/28… we will be taking that Friday off for Christmas break for our leaders. Come back Jan 4 from 6:30-8:30.

A NOTE from DAVID...

I have important news to share! No, we’re not having another baby...

I have accepted an offer to become an associate pastor at West Hills Community Church. Pamela and I attended there before I came on staff here in 2003 and still have quite a few relationships over there. I’ve been exploring the idea of pastoral ministry for the last couple years and I heard about an opening over at West Hills and decided to submit a resume a couple of months ago. I was offered a position on their staff this last Monday as an associate pastor. I am excited to be part of what God is doing in community groups, ministry to young families, new member assimilation and working with their student ministry intern/student ministry department.

I am likewise grateful for the chance I was given here at MHPC 9.5 years ago to be in ministry without having had any previous experience. God has certainly taught me a lot through my time here. Pamela and I are excited the transition, but we also recognize that we have a lot of relationships here and a lot of life has happened during this last decade. I was single when I came on staff without any formal education and now I leave with a wife, two kids, a BA and an M.Div. We have grown a lot during the last decade and are thankful and praise God for our time here. Our son Ben freely roams the church like it is our home. So we go with fond memories and an obvious recognition that we are still in town and will still be in touch.

I have also loved seeing how Jesus has been glorified in this process. I respect the leadership of both churches immensely and loved the spirit of cooperation between them. There was a respect for God’s kingdom and a desire to magnify that in our community through this transition.

As far as the transition goes… I’m excited to hear what the personnel committee and session have in mind. MHPC has a recent history of developing student ministry directors that have moved on to pastoral ministry or the mission field. It is an exciting time for the church to invest in a new student ministry director.

David Frederick

ADULT EDUCATION

Ed Wong, Elder ~ 776-0306

SUNDAY MORNINGS:
8:30am Intercessory Prayer in Library. Led by Aveline Holland, this is a time to pray for our church and for one another.
10:45am Adult Sunday School in Library.

GROW GROUPS:
If you are not in a Grow Group, we encourage you to get involved. Signing up is easy – just come to the table in the Fellowship Hall and we’ll make sure you plugged into a group that fits your schedule. Groups meet almost every day of the week - plus this year we are offering a group on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. You can also call the office (779-2820) or email (mhpc@mhpc.org) to let us know of your
interest or to ask questions. And, you can always contact Ed Wong 776-0306 or ED.WONG.MORGANHILL@GMAIL.COM to help you find a group.

**OWNLS FELLOWSHIP:**

OWLS (Older and Wiser in the Lord) got together over the Thanksgiving weekend for a potluck and Phar Lap, a movie about a famous race horse from Australia.

Fun was enjoyed by all ages in the group and we are looking forward to getting together in January! If you want in on the fun, phone Warren or Betty Blakley 779-2471.

**MEN’S MINISTRIES**

*Ed Wong, Elder ~ 776-0306*

**BIBLE STUDIES:**

**Monday Nights** (2nd & 4th of the month) at 7:00
Meets in the Library. Contact Ed Wong at 776-0306.

**Wednesday mornings** at 7:00am in the large classroom FLC. Currently studying the Heidelberg Catechism. For more info, contact Mark Markham at 778-6234.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST:** 8am JAN 12, 2013 Be sure to look for tickets in Fellowship Hall at the beginning of January for the Men’s Breakfast. We will have our usual gourmet food and a wonderful speaker, Mark Lodewyk, principal of Valley Christian High School, sharing his journey. For more information, contact Ed Wong 408-776-0306 or the church office.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRIES**

*Coordinator: Sue Sholer 779-2689*

**BIBLE STUDIES:**

**THURSDAYS:** FLC

Classroom: 9:30 - 11am Sept 13th! 1st Samuel - books soon!

**MISSIONS**

*Barbara Mancini, Elder ~ 779-8944*

Join us for prayer every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the MHPC library.

December 30th, we look forward to a visit from Pierre and Judy Allard, parent of Sophia Knappe, who serve with Just Equipping, missionary friends of MHPC. They are currently in an area of Africa with lots of need but much unrest, so please be praying for their ongoing safety as they reach out to serve.

**ADMINISTRATION**

*Gary Winzeler, Elder ~ 483-7739
Ken Oliver, Elder ~ 779-7939*

**Grounds Beautification**
The landscaping group continues to make noticeable and stunning improvements to the campus. We can’t thank them enough for coordinating Beautification Work Days and their faithfulness to the upkeep of what is already in place.

**Painting**
Great thanks to Dave Raymaker and Mark Markham for all their efforts completing the painting around the campus!

**Repairs**
Special thanks to Joe Roush, Larry Toombs, Mark Makham, Warren Blakley and Gary Fikse for all the hours they put into fixing things around the church buildings and grounds. They keep lights
on, refrigerators running and water where it should be - thanks, guys!

As always, if you are interested in helping out with the improvements going on around our campus please contact Gary Winzeler or Ken Oliver.

---

**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

*Liz Quaday, Elder ~ 776-1325*

Greetings for Christmas and the New Year! We have just completed our annual Christmas Concert, and what a joy it was! Many, many thanks to Stan George and Marilyn George for their countless hours of work to pull everything together, the choir members for their talents and time, the orchestra members for setting aside their time to enhance the entire performance, and the many folks who helped behind the scenes to pull it all together. The Lord was honored!

Now that the concert is over and the choir is taking a brief but much-needed break, it is time to consider joining us in January as a choir member for the 2013 season. I can say from experience that it is a joy and a blessing to sing with the choir, not to mention the hilarious good time we have at rehearsals. Speak with Stan if you have even the slightest interest in singing and he will give you all the information you will need to make your decision. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite!

Another note to add to this article is the blessing we have received from those Elders who have been serving as Prayer Ministers during the Communion services for second hour on Sunday morning. Our plan is to begin to implement this ministry at the first hour Communion service in January. This is a bit of a change that we want to try at both services, perhaps on a rotating basis for first hour.

Have the Merriest of Christmases!

~Liz~

---

**PARTING THOUGHTS**

I received this in an email recently and wanted to pass it along to you as my blessing for a Merry Christmas! ~ Lynn

The very first.........

---

**NEXT ISSUE: Spring 2013**

Thank God for that bed and the Baby who slept there!

Amen

Merry Christmas from the staff and Elders at Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church. We count it a privilege to serve this wonderful congregation throughout the year and pray abundant blessings for you as we all celebrate together, Emmanuel, God with us!
Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church

16970 DeWitt Ave.
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-2820  www.mhpc@mhpc.org

Office Hours:  8am-1pm  Mon-Fri
Pastoral Staff:  9am-5pm  Tue-Fri
Sunday Worship:  9am & 10:45am

INSIDE:
• Life of the Church – MHPC Calendar
• Updates from Session & Ministries
• Worship Gatherings@ MHPC

The place to...

CONNECT ... with God and God’s People
GROW ... in our relationship with God and God’s people
SERVE ... as witnesses to Jesus in word and deed

For help and questions:

STAFF:  (408) 779-2820
  Pastor:  Mark Inouye (ext. 11)
  Student Ministries:  David Frederick (ext. 14)
  Children’s Ministries:  Shari Grover (ext. 13)
  Choir Director:  Stan George (ext. 17)
  Worship Leader:  Daniel Dupre (ext. 17)
  Organist/Pianist:  Marilyn Markham (ext. 17)
  Women’s Ministries:  Sue Sholer (779-2689)
  Men’s Ministries:  Ray Wynn (776-3658)
  Administrative Assistant:  Lynn Wong (ext. 10), M-F 8am-1pm
  Nursery Attendant:  Esther Lentz

Finance:  David Chambliss, Chair, John Hunter, Jim Sugiyama, Barbara Dawson, MJ Heacox, Harold Bass, George Ziegler

ELDERS:
  Administration:  Gary Winzeler (483-7739) Ken Oliver (779-7939)
  Adult Ministries:  Ed Wong (776-0306)
  Children & Family Ministry:  Renee DeWiletz (778-6338)
  Clerk of Session:  MJ Heacox (531-9919)
  Congregational Life:  Ann Raymaker (778-1964)
  Finance:  David Chambliss (779-7337)
  Missions:  Barbara Mancini (779-8944)
  Personnel:  John Hunter (779-6462)
  Worship & Music:  Liz Quaday (776-1325)
  Youth:  Julie Bayle Wolfard (375-8926)

DEACONS:
  Moderator:  Stephen Beard
  Mary Beard
  Valerie Chambliss
  Nancy Rhoads
  Amalia Rodriguez
  Roger and Martha Schaller
  Larry and Barbara Suverkrubbe
  Leslie Woodward-Siegler
  Youth Deacon - OPEN