

July 2006

Dear Friends at Santa Margarita United Methodist Church,

We at Hope United Methodist Church located in Torrance, California, hereby unconditionally warrant for an unlimited term the following:

1. You may forget the essence of the first Sunday sermon by Rev. Nicole because you'll be thinking about the color streak in her hair.
2. Combined with the PT Cruiser that she drives, you will soon notice that she is not the stereotypical United Methodist minister.
3. You will soon notice and may feel some discomfort because her sermons seem to speak to you personally, as if she could read your mind and feel the yearning in your heart.
4. You will notice a very handsome father and son sitting amongst the congregation- Doctor Jeff and Jacob. What you may not know is that father and son are talented musicians, and you should not waste any time in getting them involved.
5. This warning is important! Rev. Nicole will sometimes make you cry because she is so passionate in her sermons and sometimes she cries. So please cooperate and cry with her; just remember to have handkerchief or tissue handy.
6. If your pews are like ours, and some of the pencils have busted tips, you may want to remember to bring your own pen or pencil to take notes. Her messages will carry you through the week.
7. If you forget your pen or pencil, don't worry because she provides copies of her sermons that you can take with you, and you can also access it on-line.
8. You will find that time flies by very quickly during her sermons, and you may have a strong desire for Rev. Nicole to keep going. Just remember that the seminary teaches ministers to keep congregants interested enough to return the following week.
9. You will appreciate how articulate she is in conveying the message of Christ, and how she is so adept at relating it to your daily living. You will probably be envious and wish you could be as articulate. This is a normal reaction.
10. You will notice her amazing energy and capacity to focus on the multitude of tasks required of ministers. Hint: She is great at formulating inspirational stewardship campaigns, and she has a beautiful voice, too.
11. If some of you like country and some of you like rock and roll, Rev. Nicole is great at traditional, but is equally gifted at delivering contemporary services.
12. You should remember that Rev. Nicole is human, and every so often when she sees a wrong to right or someone being taken advantage of, her temper may flare. The fact that she is Irish has nothing to do with that.

On the serious side, please know that we all miss Rev. Nicole, Jeff and Jacob, but we are comforted that you will all come to experience her passion for Christ, and the many profound ways in which your beliefs will be impacted. We ask that you support and love Rev. Nicole and her family as we do.

- Your Brothers and Sisters at Hope United Methodist Church, Torrance, CA.