

May 2002

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
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Visit us on the Web!

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Pentecost

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Easter season closes with the Feast of Pentecost, at which we recognize and give thanks for God's gift of the Spirit to the Church. The color for the day is red, to remind us of the tongues of flame in the Acts 2 story.

"Pentecost" comes from the Greek name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks, a harvest festival that was celebrated 50 days after Passover. It was a time to give thanks to God for the first wheat harvest of the year, and to offer back the first fruits of the earth in thanksgiving. The people who heard Peter's sermon in Acts had gathered in Jerusalem for this celebration.

Christians appropriated both the festival and its timing. What better way to recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit, and all that changed because of it, than

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Sunday School Bible Presentation

May 19th Sunday Celebration



On Pentecost, Sunnyhills UMC will present Bibles to the children in our primary Sunday School class. This is an important day for these youngsters as they take a great step forward along their life journey. No longer simply listeners, now they will be able (and encouraged!) to read the scripture lessons for themselves.

The Sunnyhills UMC and St. Joseph Episcopal Sunday Schools meet together each Sunday morning from 10:30—11:15 a.m. The primary class, led by Cliveden Chew Haas, is following the *Whole People of God* curriculum, based on the lectionary readings for each Sunday. The lessons introduce the students to the same passages the sermon focuses on in the adult worship.

Children are an vital part of our SUMC church life and we treasure their presence in worship and at other events.

Garden Work Day

Saturday—May 25th
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Enjoy a pleasant morning in the garden! We'll be snipping, trimming, weeding a bit, and planting the summer annuals. No expertise required. The butterflies will be most appreciative!





¹²For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. ¹³For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and were all given to drink one Spirit.

(1Cor. 12:12-13)

After service on alternate Sundays we have been meeting in a group to ponder the questions of who Sunnyhills church is and what is its purpose. Several months ago we began by having group prayer for God to help us to answer these root questions. We went away with the charge to maintain an individual prayer vigil for discernment of God's call for our church. It is not unusual for prayers for enlightenment and understanding to lead us to particular scriptures. For affairs of the church who better to consult than the apostle Paul?

The scripture tells us that we as a church make up the body of Christ. The body of Christ is the Church Universal and each of the local churches is an essential member of the one body, made so by the baptism of the on Holy Spirit. Therefore, each of us is an essential member of that one body.

Paul explains that each of us members have been given special gifts and purposes that operate

within this one body. These gifts cannot, must not be ignored. To do so brings harm and disharmony to the body.

²⁴...But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked. ²⁵That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another. ²⁶And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it...

Perhaps it has fallen to us the ailing members such as Sunnyhills Church to remind the Church that to cut us out may cause it to become blind or deaf or crippled depending upon our particular purpose and function of the body.

But, in order to get this message across, in order to add our strength to the body that has become numb to our presence or even pained by our weakness, we must make our value known. That process starts with our self-discovery of who we are and what is our purpose.

This has brought us to the second stage of our search for our spiritual identity-- to identify the core values of our church. That is, to identify what lies at the heart of our church. We now meet and take home questions over which to pray and to ponder as we go through our daily lives that will illuminate our individual core values. Because we have found during this process, the core values of Sunnyhills are the core values of its individual members.

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Upcoming Events

Dan Damon Music Workshop

District Learning Opportunities

Saturday, May 18th

First UMC of Campbell,
1675 Winchester Blvd.

Registration: \$10

Dan Damon, UMC pastor at Richmond, jazz pianist, and a published writer of hymn texts and tunes, leads a workshop called "To a Thirsty World: 16 New Hymns by Dan Damon." Hymns have a theology and a life story. Dan will be telling stories about how these hymns came to be written. The workshop will be singing through Dan's new hymn collection from Abingdon Press.

Also available: Cathy Warner, member of Boulder Creek UMC, certified Lay Speaker, and Conference Lay Ministry Training graduate presents "Holy Ink: Exploring Your Spiritual Life and Faith through Writing." This workshop explores writing as a spiritual discipline using prayer, Bible passages, and meditations to open avenues for writing about our faith. There will be opportunity to write and share with the group in a supportive environment. No writing experience necessary.

Both these workshops will be presented twice (see below). A panel on "The Nuts and Bolts of Annual Conference for Lay Members" will be presented at 10:45 only.

Time schedule:

8:30 a.m.-Registration & cont. breakfast

9:00 a.m.-First session

10:45 a.m.-Second session

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy glorious music. See Gwen Freeman for carpooling details!

Joyful Noise Music Camp

A Program of

Genesis United Methodist Church

Location: Sunnyhills UMC

June 24-28, 2002

Joyful Noise Music Camp is a one-week summer day camp for kids enrolling in First through Sixth Grades in September 2002. The Music Camp offers an interactive, life-changing experience that uses music to open the doors of possibility for each child. The action-packed week includes:

- Music education classes
- Exciting performances
- Interactive Bible lessons and character education
- Student's choice of sports, arts, and life skills classes
- Talent Night for kids to showcase their abilities
- Fun Day and field trip

Music themes include Music of Many Cultures (Monday), Classical and Opera (Tuesday), The Blues (Wednesday), Gospel (Thursday), and Fun Day! (Friday). The field trip will be to The Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose.

Children will enjoy this chance to expand their horizons and explore their potential. Please call 408/263-9074 for more information.



From the Pastor

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We have a lot of work to do. But this might be the best and most important work this church and all churches must do. This process will take time. We need full participation from every member of this member of the whole Body of Christ if we are to be healed and recognized as viable before the Church makes the mistake of cutting off its nose to spite its face, or we simply drop off from our own neglect.

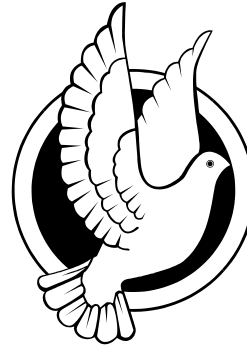
We are finding this work difficult and sometimes confusing. But, this is the work I believe God is calling us at Sunnyhills UMC to do today so we can live to hear God's next command for us. So stay with us in our struggle for enlightenment and empowerment if you have started this journey; come and join us if you have not.

*May God shine blessings upon you and grant you Peace!
Adrienne Beasley, Pastor*

Pentecost

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to do so on a festival of first fruits? Indeed, the first fruits of the Resurrection were the thousands addressed that day and the 3000 who were baptized (Acts 2:41).



Acts is not the only place we read of the gift of the Spirit to the church; Not all authors set this gift on this day.

It comes earlier in John's gospel (that account was read on April 7th). John's account is intimate and personal; Luke's account in Acts is public and touches many in unexpected ways. Neither can be said to be more "true" than the other. Together, they represent some of the breadth and variety of the experience of faithful people. Other New Testament writers describe the gift in different ways, but all are agreed on this: Jesus is risen, and God is at work among us and in the world with a relentless, unstoppable power.

Income and Expenses Summary

INCOME	Feb-02	Mar-02	Total
Offerings	\$2,870	\$3,704	\$6,574
Building Use & Other	4,197	5,243	9,440
Special Giving	109	98	206
Total	\$7,176	\$9,045	\$16,221

EXPENSES	Feb-02	Mar-02	Total
Mission & Outreach	\$1,191	\$1,165	\$2,356
Operating Expenses	1,079	1,794	2,873
Pastor & Staff Support	1,597	6,147	7,744
Total	\$3,867	\$9,107	\$12,973