

July 2002

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Adrionne Beasley
Church Office

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Visit us on the Web!

www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Charge Conference

There will be a brief Charge Conference after worship on June 30th to approve the salary package for our new pastor. The church must approve her compensation for the next appointment year beginning July 1st.



Farewell Party for Pastor Adrionne June 30th Sunday Celebration

Our beloved Pastor Adrionne leads us in worship on June 30th, her last Sunday at Sunnyhills UMC. Her warmth, humanity, and energy have inspired our visioning and revitalized our dreams. She has brought us hope and sound common sense and called us for God's own. Our thoughts and prayers go with her in her new appointment to Elmhurst UMC in Oakland.

Be sure to sign Adrionne's Memory Book and let her know how much her presence this year has meant for us all.

Join us after worship on June 30th for a special time social hour and farewell.

From the Pastor's Desk

June, 2002

During my tenure as pastor of Sunnyhills United Methodist Church we have come together as a unified congregation to pray about and wrestle with many questions that God placed in our hearts. We asked what does God want us to do? God answered by changing the question to what/who is God calling us to be? Seeking this answer is the path that God lights for Sunnyhills. This is our beacon. Thus the primary questions before us are,

Who is Sunnyhills UMC, and to whom does Sunnyhills belong?

God often moves us inch by inch while we long to make giant steps. But our task calls for us to wait on the Lord. Our task is in the pursuit of the answers not in creating the solutions, which only God can accomplish. As long as we are



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on God's path we can have faith that all is well even as we are tossed by the raging storm or seemingly set adrift on a windless sea or shipwrecked on a deserted island. If we stay the course that God has charted for us we will develop all the skills we need for survival and we will experience wonders and miracles beyond our control or expectations. Isn't it amazing that God asks so little of us; just an ounce of patience and a pound of trust?

Patience and trust sounds so simple yet we find these most difficult to maintain because these are the seeds and the fruits of faith. We need tools to help us to focus on God. We need the ability to see God in our midst in good times and bad. We need to feel God's energy in the slow times and God's pulling us back when we want to move too fast. This requires prayer and more prayer.

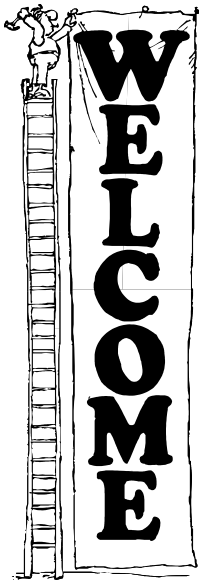
Don't get too busy or too important for prayer individually and collectively. Prayer is our pipeline and our lifeline to God. Don't be frightened to hear God speak to you and don't be embarrassed to share with others God's message. Use God's tools; pray constantly and joyously, point out to each other where and when you recognize God in your presence and celebrate together the gifts and the assurance of God's grace.

I was sent to you last year and it seemed as if you were to be my first assignment while I would be your last. You will always be my first, but another has been sent to you. Glory Halleluiah to another new beginning! This is not a starting over for Sunnyhills, or it shouldn't be. This is God's continuing to shine upon you because you continue to follow God's lighted path in baby steps.

It has been wonderful being a part of your pursuit of God and the development of your gifts. You have lifted me up and nurtured me in my first assignment to serve a church and I have been blessed. I hope you continue the work of self-exploration under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. I love each of you and all of you. My prayers will be with you that you will continue to walk with God with the assistance of your new pastor and district superintendent.

God's continued blessings upon you all,

Adrienne Beasley, Pastor



A Warm Welcome for Our New Pastor Shirley Macemon Starts July 1st

Shirley's first Sunday celebration with us will be July 7th. After the worship service, the social hour will be a chance for us to greet her, introduce ourselves, and help her feel at home here at Sunnyhills UMC.

Shirley will be a delightful addition to our church family. How lucky we are to have found a minister who can not only lead us where we would go, but who also lives in the area and is able to work with us half time. Please see Staff Notes (below) and Introducing Shirley Macemon (page 4) for more information on Shirley and on plans to welcome her warmly in our midst.

Staff Notes

by Daislyn Pease, Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

In case you haven't already heard, Adrionne has been reassigned to a church in Oakland. When I first heard the news, I felt my stomach fall down into the pit. I thought, "What now? How are we going to survive?" I know many of you will miss Adrionne, as will I.

However, the Lord must be looking out for us. Our new pastor as of July 7th will be Shirley Macemon. She will be a half-time pastor, the same as Adrionne and Amy Beth. Shirley is an experienced pastor and worked most recently at Soledad UMC. She was also previously with Los Altos UMC. Shirley, as do many UMC pastors, had a prior life as well, and has a history in marketing and high tech.

I know, many of you may be thinking, "Not another new pastor again!" But I tell you, I thought no one could finish the journey Adrionne started us on until I met Shirley. I now feel that if anyone can, she can and will. I believe most of Staff Parish feel similarly. And I'm actually the most positive I've been in a very long time about our possibilities for growth and outreach. Shirley is writing her own article in this newsletter, so I'll let her introduce herself.

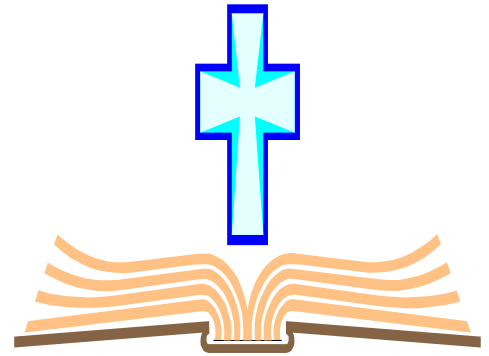
We've done this so many times before, even Ardith agreed we could probably teach the Pastoral transition workshop. As we've done before, I will circulate sign up sheets for those willing to host a dinner or desert meeting in their homes. Shirley is open to almost any time at all. Did I forget to say that she lives in San Jose? So she's much closer. I'm looking forward to sharing our stories with Shirley and to hearing some of hers.

I will start out with a desert meeting at my house on Wednesday, July 10th, 7:00 pm until about 9:00. I'm at 294 Barker Street, in Milpitas. Take Abel to Marylinn Drive, go towards 880 on Marylinn, turn left at Barker and I'm the first house on the left (second driveway). I'll have dessert and coffee waiting. Everyone is welcome, but if you're allergic to cats or dogs, I'd advise holding out for someone else's get together.

May God's grace be with each of us as we journey further down our path together.

Introducing Shirley Macemon

I come to you as a newly commissioned probationary Elder of the United Methodist Church, with hopes and dreams, but most of all with the conviction that together we can listen well and discern God's will for the Sunnyhills UMC.



Methodist all my life, I've been an active member of the Los Altos UMC for the past 20 years. I love to be a part of others' learning, whether it is working through a Bible passage or theological concept, learning a new song, conquering an art or craft, or beginning to articulate their own faith. It was while creating curriculum with one of the pastors at LAUMC that I heard the call to seminary. Only well into seminary did I realize that God was calling me to pastoral ministry, not a consulting ministry making use of my MBA and business experiences. I finished the Master of Divinity at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2000. Since then, I have served as Minister of Children and Youth at the Cambrian Park UMC in San Jose and, most recently, as the pastor of Soledad UMC.

My husband, John Marcus, works in product integration at Hewlett Packard/Compaq in Cupertino. Our daughters, Rebecca and Leah (Marcus), are 15 and 12. Rebecca, a sophomore at Lynbrook High School, spends most of her free time at the stables with Will, our Appaloosa, or with her nose in a book. Leah, a seventh-grader at Miller Middle School, also enjoys horses, is an avid reader, and is a Junior Girl Scout who just earned her Bronze Award. Both girls have accompanied me on house building missions to Mexico. The whole family enjoys Family Church Camp in the Sierras, weekend camping, and sleeping late on Saturday mornings. The girls share my love for crafts—paper, polymer clay, doll making, spinning and weaving, and are becoming sewers as well. They share their Dad's love for everything "computer," too.

At Annual Conference I was blessed to be able to spend some time with Adrionne, Guy Haas, and Sarah Chow. I feel as though I have gotten to know some of you already. But, I really want to listen to each of you, to get to know you as individuals and a community, to pray together, to worship together, and to learn together where God will lead us. As we continue this journey, I know it will be an exciting adventure.

I'm excited. I hope you are too! I'll see you on July 7th.

Working for the Kingdom,

Shirley Macemon



Do you remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? The children were assigned to read their Bibles and find out two things that the young men refused to do. One was to bow down to the king's golden statue. What was the second? (Answer on page 7)

Short Notes

Adult Choir Sings Joyfully Over Summer

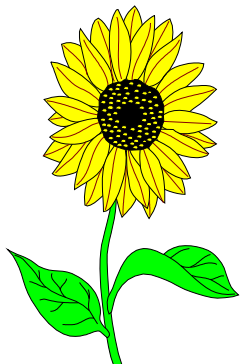


The adult choir plans to continue singing together over the summer. Thursday evening rehearsals are cancelled until fall. Choir members are meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to prepare songs of praise and inspiration.

New voices are always welcome! All you need is a love of music and a joyful voice. Summer anthems include old favorites and new creations. Contact Gwen Freeman (408/263-8942) for more information or join a rehearsal before worship on Sunday.

Remember,

Those who sing
Pray twice!



Summer Sunday School

The Beginner Sunday School class (pre-school-first grade) is spending 10 weeks on a Bug Safari! This vacation church school curriculum incorporates Bible stories, craft projects, music, videos, and much more. Catch up with one of the youngsters and they'll be glad to tell you what's "buggin'" them now!

The Beginner Sunday School class runs through August 11th. Visitors and friends are always welcome. The class meets in the pre-school art room (upper building).

The Primary Class (second-sixth grades) will meet five Sundays in July and August (7/14-8/11). Our program includes singing, Bible stories, and crafts. Enjoy the fruits of our labors on August 4th when the Children's Choir sings in worship at both the SUMC and St. Joseph services. Of course, visitors and friends are gladly welcomed. The Primary Class meets in the front of Jones Hall (small room).



Thanks for Thinking of Us!

Eugenia Egbert reports that Don is feeling much better these days. Indeed, he's even been seen at services without a cast or brace on his foot! Don sends his heartfelt thanks to the congregation for the many prayers, visits, notes, telephone calls, and kind words he received during his recent convalescence. The Love Feast provided by Pastor Adrionne and friends was especially meaningful and most welcome!



Income and Expenses Summary



INCOME	Apr-02	May-02	Total
Offerings	\$ 2,897	\$ 2,156	\$ 5,053
Building Use & Other	7,019	1,783	8,802
Special Giving	104	127	232
Total	\$10,020	\$ 4,067	\$14,087

EXPENSES	Apr-02	May-02	Total
Mission & Outreach	\$ 866	\$ 1,029	\$ 1,895
Operating Expenses	2,781	1,602	4,382
Pastor & Staff Support	4,806	2,214	7,020
Total	\$ 8,453	\$ 4,845	\$13,298

Fund Balances	Apr-02	May-02
San Jose Family Shelter	\$ 0	\$ 10
'363' Fund	11	69
Cash on Hand	\$11,629	\$10,852

Joyful Noise Challenges Kids to Think Big!

June 24-28 ❖ 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Locations: Sunnyhills UMC

An awesome week is planned for Joyful Noise Music Camp 2002! From the teachers to the performers, a host of seasoned professionals will inspire and instruct our children in music, the arts, sports, and the art of life.

Special activities—including a science of music experiment and field trip to the Tech Museum—will stretch our kids' imaginations and open them to new ideas.

Through daily Bible lessons taught by Genesis UMC Pastor Junius Dotson, kids will experience the power in seeking God's blessings.

On Thursday evening, please join us for dinner and a show as the Joyful Noise kids

perform for families and friends. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Show begins at 7:00.



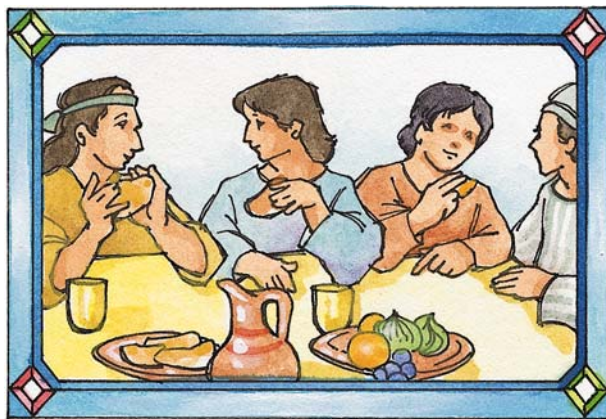
Joyful Noise Music Camp is an extraordinary experience that helps kids explore their potential and expand their horizons.

Scholarships are still available! Plus, SUMC has set aside funds to aid Sunnyhills children who would like to attend.

For information on enrollment and volunteer opportunities, please call the Genesis UMC office at 408/263-9074.



On July 13 the Sunnyhills Youth Association is sponsoring a Become an Artist Day. Sunnyhills UMC has offered to host the drink and food booth again this year as part of our summer fund raising activities. If you would be available to help man the booth, provide cookies/brownies, or donate sodas or bottled water, please let us know. The event is from 10:00 to 2:00 and is held on the church property. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Juanita 408-946-6967 (juanitawestover@yahoo.com) or Daislyn 408-262-4236 (dpease@aol.com) for more information. Signup sheets will be circulated at Sunday services.



Answer to Children's Bible Quiz:

While being trained for leadership positions, Daniel and his three friends refused to eat "impure" food from king's table. Instead, they insisted on plain vegetables and simple drink which wouldn't violate their religious food laws.

Lectionary Readings for July

July 7th

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,
58-67
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 14th

Genesis 25:19-34
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 21st

Genesis 28:10-19a
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 28th

Genesis 29:15-28
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

