

October 2002

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035
Pastor Shirley Macemon

Church Office

(408) 262-1486

Visit us on the Web!

www.gbkm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Heifer Project Visit

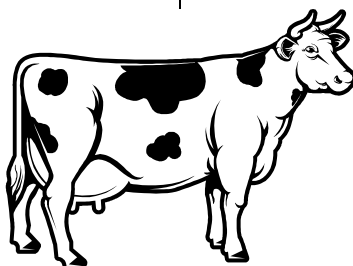
Primary Sunday School Class

Sunday October 13th

The SUMC/St. Joseph Primary class will visit the Heifer Project International farm in Ceres, California, on Sunday, October 13th. Cliveden Chew Haas and Pastor Shirley are our fearless leaders. The group will leave at 11:00 and plans to return about 6:00 p.m. Sunnyhills youth funds will help pay for part of the costs of gas and food.

The idea that became HPI began in the 1930's. Dan West, a youth leader and farmer, was a relief worker during the Spanish Civil War. Assigned to pass out powdered milk to children on both sides of the conflict, he grieved when the supply of milk ran out with children still waiting in line. He reasoned, "Not a cup, but a cow, is needed." He challenged friends back home to send heifers. And because he believed that everyone who receives should also experience the dignity of giving, he conceived the idea of "passing on the gift." Every family who receives a Heifer Project animal, large or small, passes on at least one of their animals' offspring to someone else in need.

Leaders and children will tour the working farm, meet many of the animals shipped to foreign countries, and learn more about world hunger and how we can help. Ask them about their trip!



Church Conference

Vote on 2003 Plans

Sunday October 20th

11:00 Staff-Parish Meets with D.S.

11:30 a.m. Celebration of Our Ministries

Members and friends of Sunnyhills UMC are invited to one of the most important church meetings of the year. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. We need everyone's presence, energy, and input as we review our last year and finalize the next.

Help celebrate the church we are becoming!

Our charge conference is the first unveiling of the new SUMC. We will elect church officers for next year, examine our finances, and reinvigorate our programming.

Other important business includes a preview of the proposed mission statement and a first look at our purpose and goals for next year. The meeting will be chaired by our District Superintendent, Nymphas Edwards, whom we hope will also join us in worship.

Charge into the future!

Our social time will include make-your-own deli sandwiches and other savory delights, so that our minds and bodies may be nourished for the task ahead. Child care provided.

Early this month I attended the Spiritual Leaders' Summit. This event, once known as Pastor's School, is held each September at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. I went to the Summit to spend time with good friends, for a retreat, and for the music. Anything else? Well, I didn't expect much else.

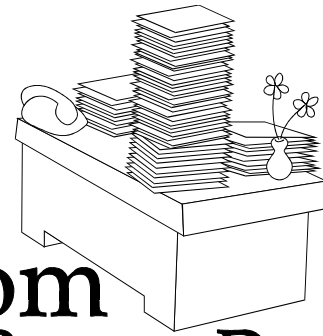
This year's keynote speaker was Michael Slaughter, the senior pastor of the Ginghamburg UMC, in Tipp City, Ohio. Those of you who have heard me preach will not be surprised when I say I am often skeptical of "big name" speakers who are paid to tell us how to do our jobs.

You see, the Ginghamburg UMC is one of those churches we keep hearing about as a success story in the "mega" church movement – "If you do it like they did it, then you, too, can have 5000 in worship on Sundays, billions visit your website, and a staff numbers in the thousands like they do..." (I am exaggerating.) Good for them. But what does that do with us here in Sunnyhills?

And then Michael started to talk. He told us that church growth models simply don't work anymore. He said everything we had read about mega-church models is already outdated. He said that spiritual leaders in the 21st century must *unlearn* the way we do church. Mike said things like: size doesn't matter, that there is no "right" model, folks are engaged and transformed through the love of Jesus Christ in environments where all questions are safe, where questions are often more important than answers, where personal interaction is more important than doctrinal ideology, where encounters with the risen Christ takes us back into the world in mission – not just into a pristine sanctuary in political correctness.

Now, I have to tell you, as Michael talked about the passion his congregation had for their missions – Ginghamburg has a particular outreach to youth – I also heard our own passion for being a center of community action and outreach. When I heard him talk about a place where questions are more important than answers and personal interaction is more important than doctrinal ideology, I thought about the spectrum of theology we embrace and rejoice in the name of Jesus Christ, standing together to welcome *all* our neighbors – without putting boundaries on who they are, how they live or what they believe.

We've had some hard times and I pray the worst is behind us. As I heard Mike Slaughter describe our own values as the key elements that lead us to back to health, welcome others into our midst, and continue to take us out into the world, I knew that we've got some big possibilities here at Sunnyhills. (Many of you have known that all along!)



From the Pastors Desk

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October

Calendar Items

SUMC WRAP (Administrative Council)

*Saturday-October 5th
Potluck at 5:00 p.m.
Business Mtg. at 6:00 p.m.*

Everyone in the church community is welcome. Your comments, your ideas, your presence, and your energy will help craft the program and mission best suited to SUMC. Bring a dish share and enjoy table fellowship with good friends. Grace the business meeting with your attendance and help our mission grow!

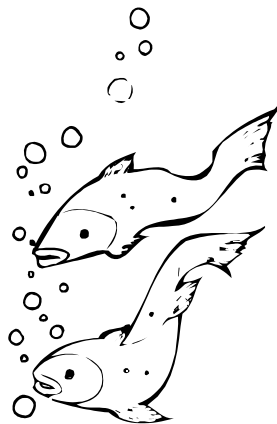
Blessing of the Animals

*Sunday, October 6th
10:45 a.m.*

Sunnyhills UMC joins St. Joseph the Worker Episcopal Church in honor of St. Francis of Assisi as we bless animals and pets outdoors, immediately after worship.

Please bring pets safely confined in carriers or on leashes. Friends and neighbors are, of course, extremely welcome!

If your favorite pet is a stuffed animal, bring it along so that Iggy (Pastor Shirley's Children's Time helper) won't feel left out.



Sermon Talk Back

Sunday, October 6th

Gather in the sanctuary after social time to discuss recent message topics with Pastor Shirley. No holds barred in respectful discussion. (Child care available for children of all ages in the upper building.)

Laity Sunday

Sunday, October 27th

Our celebration of Laity Sunday includes a special worship service focusing on the many talents and gifts of our lay members. Bob Roll and Pastor Shirley have more information.



Lunch Bunch

Sunday, October 27th

The Lunch Bunch rides again! In October we will visit La Milpa Restaurant (Milpitas Blvd. and Calaveras Blvd., near OSH). La Milpa is an old-time Mexican restaurant, serving excellent (and reasonably-priced!) meals. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, November 17th

Mark your calendars and join us at the Chinese Garden for a fixed price, family-style meal. Yumm, delicious!

From the Pastor's Desk

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As we prepare for our annual Church Conference on October 20th, think about the ministries of Sunnyhills that you have been involved in. We're going to celebrate those ministries on the 20th – a no-holds-barred celebration of being a church alive in Jesus Christ. But I also invite you to really ponder where your passions are. Ministry and mission is so much more fun when it lines up with our passions! So, if you need to re-position yourself, call me! If you need to re-prioritize how you spend your "church time" call me. If you have a passion for mission in an area we're not in (yet), call me.

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please drop by any time to chat.

If you have an emergency and need to talk to a pastor, call me on my cell phone: 408/505-6462.

I can't yet see what we'll look like, but something big is going on around here, and I love being part of it!

Grace and peace to you all,

Shirley

Spiritual Growth and Diversity **New Studies Begin This Month**

Last summer, under Pastor Adrionne Beasley's leadership, our SUMC congregation identified five core values: Spiritual Growth, Diversity, Communications, Respectfulness, and Personal Growth. In response to that work, two new study and growth groups highlighting the values of Spiritual Growth and Diversity will begin the first week of October.

Companions in Christ

Companions in Christ is a 28-week experience combining scripture, personal experience, and Christian tradition as an exploration and journey of spiritual formation. The materials are from the Upper Room and have been well received in several local churches. Pastor Shirley will lead this group, which will begin on Monday



evening, October 7, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall. Please contact the church office for more information.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural Diversity is a shorter study using the book of the same name by Charles Foster. This group will be led by Guy Haas and Alex Walker. This study will also begin during the week of October 6th, though the day of the week and time for this study is forthcoming. This exciting study challenges us to look at how we make decisions, how we are welcoming, how we are seen by ourselves and others in light of our cultural diversity, and how we can live out our call as the body of Christ and celebrate our diversity as a healthy worshiping community.

Income and Expenses Summary

INCOME:	Jul-02	Aug-02	Total
Offerings	\$2,327	\$2,540	\$4,868
Building Use & Others	750	2,457	3,208
Special Giving	252	121	373
Total	\$3,329	\$5,119	\$8,448

EXPENSES:	Jul-02	Aug-02	Total
Mission & Outreach	\$1,029	\$ 260	\$1,289
Operating Expenses	1,551	2,742	4,293
Pastor & Staff Support	4,102	2,424	6,526
Total	\$6,632	\$5,426	\$12,108

Fund Balances:	Jul-02	Aug-02
San Jose Family Shelter	\$ 10	\$ 0
'363' Fund	70	21
Cash on Hand	\$9,043	\$8,708



Books of the Bible

The Primary Class recently completed this chart. Can you? (Ask a Sunday School student if you need help!)

Match each Bible book with its description in the chart below.

Genesis	Numbers	Judges	2 Samuel	1 Chronicles
Exodus	Deuteronomy	Ruth	1 Kings	2 Chronicles
Leviticus	Joshua	1 Samuel	2 Kings	

Numberings—Includes two accounts of the counting of the people of Israel	After the death of Joshua, the Israelites are led by heroes called “judges”
Beginnings--the beginning of the universe, the beginning of man and woman, the beginning of the Hebrew people	The history of the Kings of Israel after David, beginning with Solomon, the son of David, who builds the temple
Samuel the prophet is an old man; David reigns as king for many years	Exit or departure--The Israelites are freed from slavery and leave Egypt.
“Second Law”—Before the Israelites enter the Promised Land, Moses reminds them of their history and promises	Ruth, an ancestor of David and Jesus, follows her mother-in-law Naomi to Canaan and eventually marries Boaz
This book was written much later; it retells the stories of King Solomon, the son of David, and other kings	About the Levites—The Levites were God’s priests and this book contains the rules they needed to do their work
The history of the Kings of Israel and Judah continues, including stories of the great prophets Elijah and Elisha	Joshua leads the Israelites as they enter and conquer the Promised Land of Canaan
Samuel leads Israel as prophet, priest, and judge; Saul becomes King; David grows up	This book was written much later; it retells the stories of King Saul and King David