

November 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.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Thanksgiving Food Collection

100 Boxes of Jell-O Pledged to Milpitas Food Pantry

Sunnyhills UMC has promised a minimum of 100 boxes of Jell-O to the Milpitas Food Pantry for Thanksgiving Dinner baskets. Holiday dinner supplies will be distributed to 300+ families in our local community. Bring donations of Jell-O (any size, any flavor) to the church during November. Look for the marked basket in the back of the sanctuary. Contributions large and small are welcome. Cash donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase additional foodstuffs.

The Milpitas Food Pantry was started in the mid-1950s at the new Ford Plant in Milpitas. Workers brought in food to give out to larger families who needed a helping hand. When a model line was shut down, donations of groceries helped feed workers who had been displaced.

After the Ford Plant closed down, the Food Pantry moved to various local churches, including activities at (then) First

Presbyterian, Mt. Olive Lutheran, and our own SUMC. Currently the Pantry is housed at 196 S. Main Street (in the old Milpitas Laundromat).

The Milpitas Food Pantry is a non-profit organization funded through local donations and various grants. About 800 individuals (300+ families) living in Milpitas and Alviso are served each month. New client recommendations come from local churches (approximately 75%), Social Services, the Food Connection, the City of Milpitas, etc.

Donations of food and money are always needed. If you can assist in any way, have a few hours to volunteer, or need help for your family, call 946-5564, Monday-Thursday 9:00-1:00 p.m., Wednesday eve. 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00-12:00 noon.

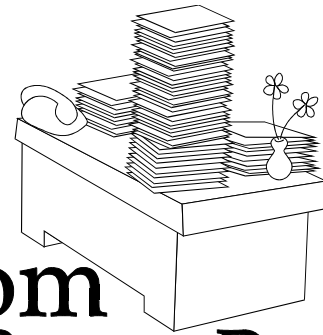
Help feed the hungry in our area!
Remember Jell-O for others' Thanksgiving meal while shopping for your own.

It's Time for a New Sunnyhills UMC Directory!

Tucked into the pages of this *Beacon*, you will find a postcard with the most current address, phone, and e-mail information the church office has for you and your family. Please look it over and correct whatever is no longer up to date. If you use e-mail, write down your e-mail address. Then send the card back to the church office by November 15th. We hope to hear from all of you!



Our annual Church Conference was held last Sunday, and I'm still jazzed. After Nymphas Edwards, our District Superintendent, called the meeting to order, we took time to share some of our highlights from the last year. Our reception with Nymphas and his wife, the way we nurture the children of our congregation, laughter in worship, decorating the sanctuary for Christmas, and many other highlights were held up as joys for the past year. In the coming year we're looking forward to our continuing study and growth groups, the mission to Mexico next April, a potential for Vacation Bible School next June, and of course, continuing our increased attendance and uplifted spirit of our congregation.



From the Pastors Desk

I am also thrilled to report to you about our financial situation under the heading of "joy"! Bob Roll and I investigated the budget, as well as projecting what we think our expenses and income will be for the rest of this year. And, to the best of our ability, it looks like we will end the year paying 100% of our apportionments, and 100% of our bills! We think next year's budget balances, too. We are moving with the Spirit of God, and that is a Good Thing!

This week I had the privilege of participating in a worship service at the Los Gatos United Methodist Church, who hosted a portion of the "Shower of Stoles" project. On display in the sanctuary were more than 200 liturgical stoles – those worn by clergy during worship services – made for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender clergy persons. The Stoles project collects these liturgical stoles and makes them available for display: The individuals for whom they were made become very real as their stories are read and their stoles are viewed. Many of these persons had to give up their ordination when they revealed their sexual orientation. Many of these persons continue to live "in the closet" and their stoles are signed "Anonymous". Some of these persons have given up the denomination of their heart so that they might serve in ministry in a denomination that welcomes them. Some of the stoles were made by children recognizing the injustice done when the church fails to welcome all people. I was honored to be able to represent Sunnyhills as a Reconciling Congregation in a Service of Reconciliation, praying for a time when all persons can be honored without regard to orientation-bias in their call to ministry.

Autumn is upon us- weather is cooling down, Thanksgiving is around the corner and then Advent and Christmas will be upon us. As your thoughts turn to our holiday mission projects, take note of the Jell-O collection for the Milpitas Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. Our Christmas Mission is not quite firmed up, (and I'm looking for a coordinator!) but will probably be a family "welcome home" meal/basket to a newly "UN"-homeless family- that is, a family recently moved from the family shelter into their own place.

Grace and peace to you all,

Shirley



November

Calendar Items

Sermon Talk Back

Sunday, November 3rd

Gather in the sanctuary after social time to chat about recent message topics with Pastor Shirley. Questions, comments, discussion, and musings over recent sermons. No holds barred in respectful conversation. (Child care available for children of all ages in the upper building.)



SUMC WRAP (Administrative Council)

Saturday-November 9th

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!

Study Groups

Mondays—Companions in Christ

Sundays—Cultural Diversity

New members are always welcome. Please see Pastor Shirley, Guy K. Haas, or Alex Walker for details and study materials.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Sunday, November 17th

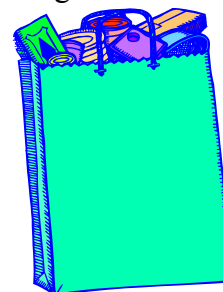
The Fearless Lunch Bunch Rides Again! Everyone is welcome to join in a delicious lunch and excellent conversation. Put some pizzazz in your life and try something a little new! In November members and friends will enjoy fellowship at Mannyla Rose Restaurant, 94 Dempsey Road. Asian/Filipino food served cafeteria style, about \$4-\$7.



Special Offerings

Our November Special Offering will support the Milpitas Food Pantry, the local agency fighting hunger in our community. See page 1 for more details.

The December Special Offering is earmarked for the San Jose Family Shelter, which provides housing for 35 families in distress for up to 90 days. Each day the shelter serves up to 150 people, 70% of them children.



SUMC Lay Leadership

2003 Committees and Work Groups

The following leaders and committee members were elected at our recent Church Conference.

Administrative Council Chair

Gwen Freeman

Lay Leader

Bob Roll

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Guy K. Haas

Treasurer

Bob Roll

Financial Secretary

Lola Dorsey

Recording Secretary

(to be filled)

Membership Secretary

Gwen Freeman

Church School Supt.

Cliveden Chew Haas

Board of Trustees

Class of 2003

Jun Cruz

Class of 2004

Cliveden Chew Haas

Herb Holloway

Class of 2006

Laurie Haas

Rolf Haas

Billy Jefferson

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Class of 2003

Aida Cruz

Class of 2006

Sarah Chow

Gwen Freeman

Guy K. Haas, Chair

Daislyn Pease

Lay Leader

Bob Roll

Pastor

Shirley Macemon

Lay Leadership (previously Nominations)

Pastor

Shirley Macemon, Chair

Class of 2003

Lola Dorsey

Bob Roll

Class of 2006

Daislyn Pease

Lay Ministries Task Force

Irene Jefferson, Jo Roll, and Thelma Wilber

Worship Visuals Jo Roll, Thelma Wilber

Memorials and Honors

Jack Freeman and Vennie Holloway

Sunnyhills Improvement Herb Holloway

Reconciling Congregation

Cliveden Chew Haas

Hospitality Interfaith Agency Reps.

Cathy Deppe and Alex Walker

Greeting Card Coordinator Jo Roll

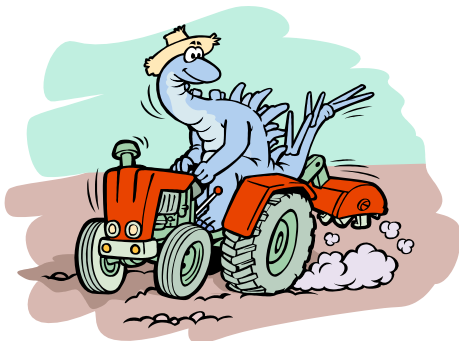
Scrip Coordinator Daislyn Pease

Convalescent Home Visitation

Eugenia Allen-Egbert and Don Egbert



Can You Help?



****Volunteers needed to help with mowing our extensive lawns! After many years of faithful service, Warren Scott is no longer able to continue cutting the grass and trimming edges regularly. Please contact Pastor Shirley if you are able to help.

****Each week our Sanctuary must be set up for worship. Please remember to sign the clipboard if you are able to help. Directions are available!

Looking Ahead

Advent Get-Together

Sunday, December 15th—6:00 p.m.

Carols, hot chocolate, and ornaments. Celebrate Advent with our Sunnyhills UMC family. Save the date! More details next month.

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th—7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Share the joy of birth and new life as we gather together to welcome the Child of Bethlehem.

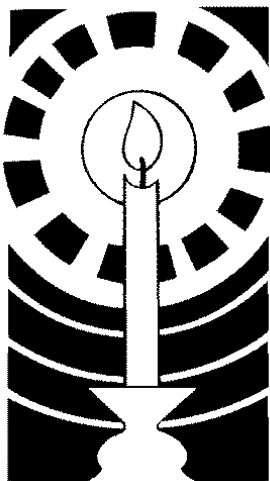


New Draft Mission Statement

Our proposed mission statement was unveiled at the Church Conference. This statement has been crafted from work done several years ago, core values developed with Adrionne last summer, and an example taken from the book *Cracking your Congregation's Code* which we have worked with for several months.

Our mission statement should describe “who we are and whose we are” as well as the distinctive ministries that may set us apart. Read the proposed statement and see if it meets these criteria. Try to see yourself and the things you do at Sunnyhills in the mission statement. Test it to try to find things that we do together that don't fit in the statement. The statement is open for revision if we find it doesn't describe our understanding of how we are living out being the Body of Christ.

We will live with this draft for several months. This statement, or a revision of it, will be accepted after a vote in a congregational meeting.

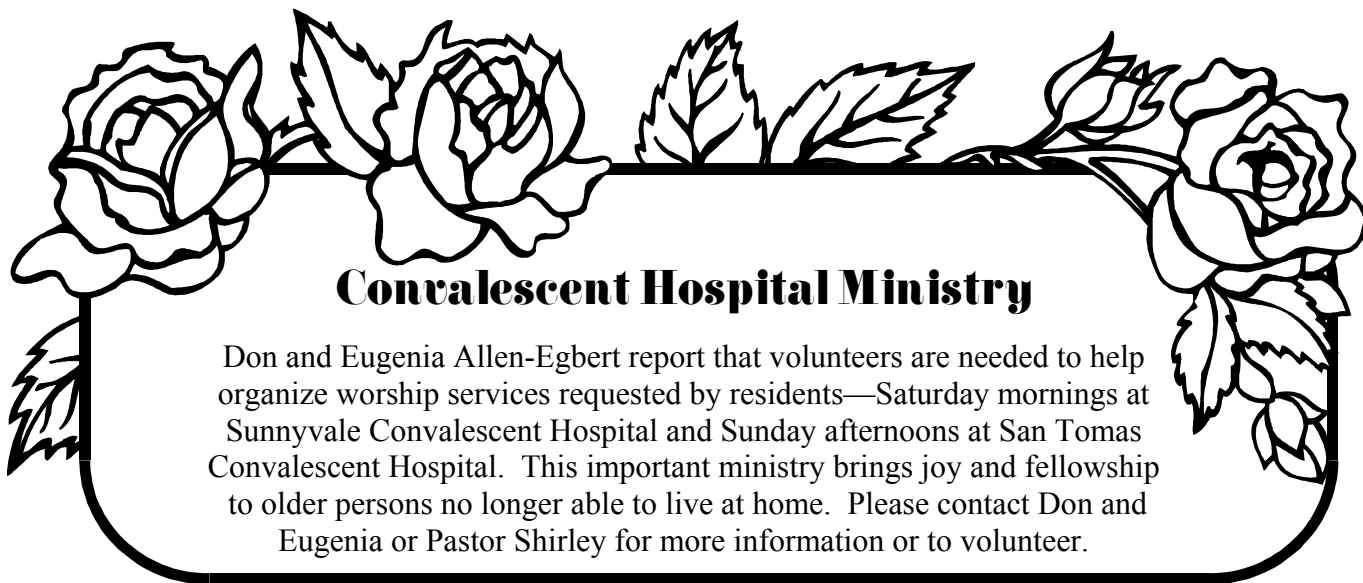


We, the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church, are an ethnically and theologically diverse, reconciling and inclusive community.

We know God's goodness, live in God's love, and are called to be partners in God's creation.

In response, we seek to follow the examples, teachings and life of Jesus by striving to pattern our lives and our church to:

- ❖ *welcome all to God's table,*
- ❖ *nurture each other in Christian love,*
- ❖ *equip people with a faith that supports life in the world,*
- ❖ *and serve God in the church, the community and the world.*



Convalescent Hospital Ministry

Don and Eugenia Allen-Egbert report that volunteers are needed to help organize worship services requested by residents—Saturday mornings at Sunnyvale Convalescent Hospital and Sunday afternoons at San Tomas Convalescent Hospital. This important ministry brings joy and fellowship to older persons no longer able to live at home. Please contact Don and Eugenia or Pastor Shirley for more information or to volunteer.



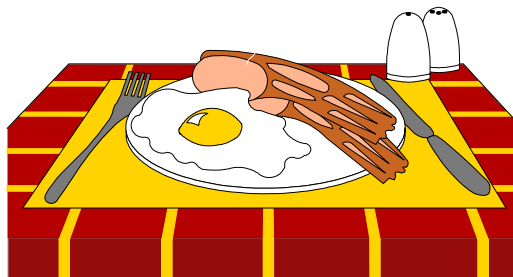
Income and Expenses September 2002

INCOME:	
Offerings	\$3,405
Bldg. Use & Others	5,338
Special Giving	212
Total	\$8,955
EXPENSES:	
Mission & Outreach	\$2,058
Operating Expenses	1,466
Pastor & Staff Support	3,212
Total	\$6,736
Fund Balances:	
San Jose Family Shelter	\$35
'363' Fund	\$73
Church School	103
Cash on Hand	\$11,267

Sunnyhills Milpitas Community Breakfast Sunday, November 3rd *Jones Hall—7:00 a.m.*

Congested traffic. Overpriced housing. Impossible commutes. Are there possible solutions? What are plans for our area? The November Host (and guest cook) is Country Club Realty and Heide Wolf Reid discussing the Silicon Valley housing crunch and Milpitas City planning.

The Community Breakfast offers an unparalleled opportunity to meet with local movers and shakers, discuss area concerns, and participate in community discussions. Everyone is welcome. Freewill offering for a very delicious breakfast.



Thrift with SCRIP

Ongoing Fundraiser Helps Support SUMC Budget

I know it's early yet. Halloween isn't even here yet, but this needs to get out before the holidays do. Do you ever get tired of shopping for the holidays? Lines! Crowds! No parking!

Make a little money for your church and save yourself and your feet all of that with Scrip. You don't even have to let your fingers do the walking! You're already going to buy toys for your niece, nephew or child or grandchild, or books for your sister, cousin, or spouse etc. Buy Scrip from Sunnyhills. You can get KayBee Toys scrip in \$10 increments, or Toys R us too. You can get Border's Books scrip in various denominations or at Barnes & Noble as well. You can buy the item yourself or mail it off to those who aren't close. For the movie lover, you can buy Blockbuster or Tower Video certificates. All of this comes right to your hand at church the week after you order and pay for it.



Got a special night in mind for a loved one? There are even scrip certificates for hotels or some airlines! Even flowers are available. You romantic ones can send flowers every month if you want.

On an everyday level, do you buy groceries? Sure, everyone does. You can purchase SaveMart or Nob Hill Scrip in various denominations too. Or if you shop at Albertson's we have paperless scrip in the form of a card you simply present at the check register. No scrip to buy or run out of! Each card records the purchase as going towards Sunnyhills account and we get 2% of your total purchase. I admit that's not much, but it all adds up. With SaveMart or Nob Hill we make 4% or 5%.

No need to buy anything you wouldn't already buy, but by thinking of your church and taking just a little effort to remember to take the scrip or Albertson's card with you to the store, you can help Sunnyhills just a little. If more of us did this we could make as much as \$500 or more in a year!! Not bad for a no-fund-raiser fund-raiser.

Don't forget there's restaurants too. Chili's and many others. If you've joined the Lunch Bunch you know there's Fresh Choice scrip too.

There's Starbucks for you coffee lovers. Footlocker for you moms whose kids constantly outgrow their shoes. Old Navy, Sears, JC Penny, Macy's, Marshalls, TJ Maxx for the shoppers. For the tool guy or gal in the household there's Home Depot

I will try to have a complete list of merchants at church over the coming weeks. See me before or after church or call me at 408-262-4236.

Daislyn Pease
Scrip Coordinator