

January 2003

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

Sunnyhills Neighborhood Community Breakfast

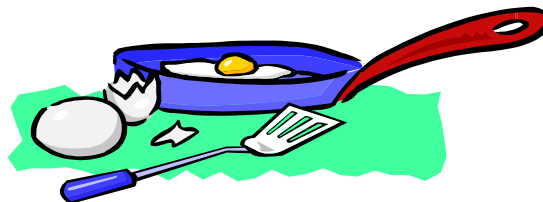
Is Wal-Mart Helping or Hurting Our Community?

Sunday—January 5th—7:00 a.m.

Sunnyhills UMC is hosting the January Community Breakfast. Cathy Deppe is organizing the program and Jack and Gwen Freeman are coordinating the breakfast. All help is appreciated!

The Community Breakfast's purpose is to give the everyday residents of Milpitas access to their elected officials and civic leaders in a give-and-take exchange of ideas and concerns over a casual breakfast. The breakfast, originally founded by the SUMC men's group, has been held on the first Sunday of the month since 1964. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge; a free-will offering will be taken. Dress is casual—come in your pajamas if you like!

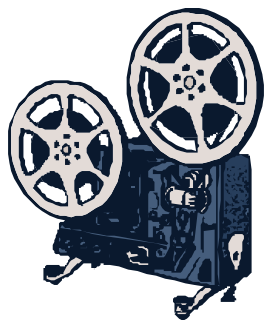
Cathy Deppe, leader of the Bay Area chapter of 9to5 National Association of Working Women, will present information on area issues, including the Wal-Mart class action lawsuit. A group of women has sued Wal-Mart for using discriminatory practices against women. The suit claims that Wal-Mart discriminates against its female employees in promotions, pay, training, and job assignments.



Sunnyhills On the Move!

Brunch and IMAX Theater Visit

Saturday—January 25th—10:00 a.m.



Calling all adults, children, and everyone in between! Celebrate the New Year and enjoy an outing to the spectacular IMAX theater at the Tech Museum in San Jose. If you've never experienced an eight-story high domed movie screen, now's your chance! The wrap-around digital sound and special reclining chairs help put you right inside the motion picture, and you'll swear your chair is moving along with the scenery.

We're not yet certain of the exact feature we'll see, but will have information before the event. The Tech screens an eye-popping array of marvelous shows in the IMAX format. Current films at press time include *The Human Body*, *IMAX Space Station*, *Mysteries of Egypt*, *Attack of the Clones*, and *Lion King*.

(Continued on Page 4)

Pastor's Letter

New Year's Celebrations seem to always bring to mind the obligatory New Year's resolutions. I'm not a big fan of New Year's resolutions, perhaps because I'm not very good at keeping "resolutions" that I make on the spur of the moment, or for an "external" reason. I have never kept a resolution to lose weight, stay on an exercise program, or keep up with out-of -own relatives just because that decision was timed with the end or beginning of a calendar year.



But, as much as I am not a fan of quickly-made New Year's resolutions, I try to take the opportunity this time of year to look back over the previous 12 months and take stock of where I've been and how my life has changed. While doing that, I do take note of where I'd like to spend more time and where I'd like to spend less time, but not in the way of a resolution.

A year ago, I commuted to the Soledad UMC every Sunday morning, returning to San Jose on Monday or Tuesday. The congregation had asked for a pastor who would work with them to prepare to close the church. I did not know where or if I would have an appointment after I finished my work in Soledad. My husband Jon worked for a startup and was in Santa Barbara three or four days a week. Rebecca and Leah were in their first year of high School and last year of elementary school, respectively. I look back at the stresses of that time with amazement.

This New Year, I have been with you here at Sunnyhills for six months. Although I am still getting to know you, we've made a great start together, and I am excited about the things we have done together, and where I think God is leading us. On the family front, Jon is now at Hewlett Packard in the Tandem division, where he has a long-standing employment relationship. Rebecca is well-entrenched in high school and Leah, in her first year in middle school, is adjusting to the demands of homework. What a difference a year makes!

This roller coaster of life has its ups and downs. When we're in the doldrums, for whatever reason, it is so hard to remember the better times, to sense the strength that surrounds us if we only can remind ourselves to reach out for it. Stress sneaks up on us. Life experiences build up and weigh us down. Spiritual depth and remembering to reach to God for sustenance and strength will see us through these times, but sometimes even that well seems to have run dry.

There are no easy answers to life's down-times. But, if you are reading this, you already have access to best community, to the Body of Christ in the world, the church. Together, we hold each other up and help each other through the rough times. Come and talk to the pastor, talk to church friends, talk to God. Together, we get through life's down-times. Together, we rejoice through life's up-times. Together we are the church.

Grace and Peace,

Shirley



Calendar Items



Children's Choir Continues

*Sunday, January 12th & 26th
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*

Our adult choir has had so much fun singing with the children. What a great joy and blessing as they have graced our Advent and Christmas worship services with their eager young voices. Because this has been so successful, Gwen Freeman and Pastor Shirley would like to continue the children's choir after Christmas. We will gather in the sanctuary at **11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month, starting January 12th and January 26th.

*Sing glory, glory, gloria;
God's love is given birth!*



SUMC WRAP (Administrative Council)

*Saturday, January 11th
Potluck at 5:00 p.m.
Business Mtg. at 6:00 p.m.*

Everyone in the church community is welcome. Be a part of planning for our present and our future! Help us craft the program and outreach best suited to SUMC. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy table fellowship with good friends. Grace the business meeting with your attendance and help our mission grow!



Lunch and Great Fellowship

*Sunday, January 19th
11:15 a.m.*

Our January Lunch Bunch will feast at Fresh Choice in the Great Mall. Gather after worship and enjoy a scrumptious meal. All-you-can-eat, featuring a wide range of salads, home-style soups, pasta, pizza, and more! Daislyn Pease will have scrip (gift certificates) available, which helps raise funds for SUMC. Discount coupons are widely available in the newspaper advertisement supplements and on the web at: <http://www.freshchoice.com/coupons.html>

Trustees Walk-Around

*Sunday, January 12th
2:00-4:00 p.m.*

At this first meeting of the new year, the Board of Trustees will elect their Chairperson and Secretary for 2003. They will also walk through the church property and compile a list of repairs and other property concerns that need to be tended to.

UMC Trustees are responsible for church property management of all sorts. If you have concerns or would like to suggest an item for discussion, please contact any member of the Board:

Herb Holloway Jun Cruz
Billy Jefferson Laurie Haas
Gwen Freeman Rolf Haas
Cliveden Chew Haas
Shirley Macemon

Brunch and IMAX Theater Visit

(Continued from Page 1)

Gather at the church for coffee, refreshments, and visiting at 10:00 a.m., plus games and activities for youngsters. We'll then carpool to the Tech Museum in San Jose.

IMAX ticket prices are \$9.00 for adults and \$8.00 for seniors. If you want to stay after the show and visit the museum, the combination ticket (admission for both) is \$16 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Please note that *SUMC will purchase the theater tickets for all children 12 and under who attend* (part of our children's mission).

IMAX Fun Facts

IMAX film is about 10 times the size of a regular film negative. Larger film translates into sharper images on the domed movie screen. The movie is stored on reels the size of tractor tires that must be loaded onto a hand-built projector as big as a Volkswagen Beetle. A typical 40-minute IMAX movie reel requires moving more than three miles of film through the projector. The 15,000-watt xenon lamp used to project the image onto the screen is so bright that, if it were placed on the moon, it could be seen from the Earth.



Thank You!

Our warmest appreciation to all who have contributed to the holiday spirit at Sunnyhills UMC. We have decorated the church, bought food and gifts for two less-fortunate families, collected for the Salvation Army, sung Christmas carols, and given of ourselves in many ways. It is really impressive to see all that has been accomplished!



Looking Ahead

February 22—Building the Body of Christ. Workshops, presentations, and worship to nurture us in our Christian walks

February 28-March 2—UMW Retreat at Mission Springs—
Scholarships available for new participants



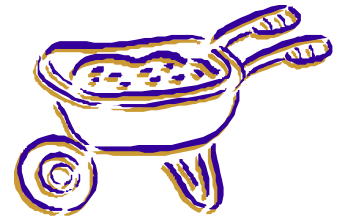


Meet Christ Across the Border Help Build a New Home in Mexico!

This spring—the week before Easter, to be exact—you have an opportunity to be a part of a life-changing experience. You will work harder than you may think you can. You will get dirtier than you think possible. You will have the opportunity to experience more joy and change lives in ways that can only be described as miraculous.

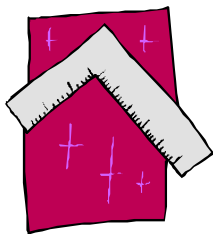
What is this experience? This is the Mexico mission trip that Pastor Shirley has talked about. In four short days, you and your team will build a home for a family in Mexico. The trip is April 12-19, 2003.

Our Sunnyhills participants will join up with others from Los Altos UMC on Saturday, April 12 in rented and personal vans. We will overnight in a San Diego hotel, worship on Palm Sunday in San Diego, and then cross the border and set up camp that afternoon. Monday, April 14, we will meet our families and begin building our homes. By Thursday our house will be finished and we will be tired! Camp will be struck on Friday morning and that evening will find us back in San Diego, preparing for the drive home to the Bay area on Saturday.



Each of us has gifts that can contribute to this mission. Strong backs are important for mixing cement and the ability to use a measuring tape and saw 2x4s are important for creating walls. There is important work appropriate for children and their grandparents and everyone in between. Most jobs are learned as we go, and willingness is the most important tool of the trip.

If you are unable to accompany us on the mission trip, your support is still important. Before the trip, we will prepare welcoming baskets for the homeowners, collect tools, and borrow camping equipment that we need for the building effort. During the trip, prayer from those at home is powerful assistance. Think about how you might support this mission.



Registration information is available in the Sanctuary and the church office. Or call the office and we'll put it in the mail to you. Sunnyhills UMC will underwrite a portion of each participant's fees, so don't let the cost of the trip keep you from attending. If you feel called to this mission, talk to Pastor Shirley—a way will be found for you to go! Registrations are due to Pastor Shirley early in January, so time is short. Pray. Discuss this opportunity with your family. Join us. Your life will never be the same!

Our SMC Choir Needs YOU!

The adult choir will commence choir practice for the new year on Thursday, January 9th, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged! We have a lot of fun and need more voices—particularly to cover for those times when someone is unable to attend or when someone else has lost their voice.

