



**February 2003**

# **The Beacon**

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

**Church Office**

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*Visit us on the Web!*

[www.gbkm-umc.org/sunnyhills](http://www.gbkm-umc.org/sunnyhills)

## **A Tribute to Arabella Bell**

*Irene Jefferson and Vennie Holloway*



Friends and members of Sunnyhills United Methodist Church were saddened to learn of the passing of our beloved member and friend Arabella J. Bell on December 22nd at Crandall Medical Center, Copeland Oaks Retirement Community in Sebring, Ohio.

She, along with her husband the Reverend Kenneth Bell, was a tireless driving force in helping to promote and sustain our church. Rev. Bell became Executive Director of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches in 1958 with Arabella acting as Council Executive Secretary. They did not hesitate to do all they could through their office to help SUMC get established and continue to grow. Arabella was director of our choir as well as Secretary and Treasurer of our first Women's Society.

She with her family were residents of our community for some time before moving back to the San Jose Area. Rather than sell their home and property to others, they gave it to our church to be used as our first parsonage. Their life together was one of commitment and service.

In 1977 Arabella and Kenneth moved back to Ohio. Their volunteer work continued at Copeland Oaks as long as their strength and health permitted. Rarely will we see these traits again embodied in anyone—professional attainment, courage, dedication, and service.

Farewell, Old Friend.

In keeping with her life of service, her family has requested that those who wish may make donations to:

Crandall Medical Center  
Arabella J. Bell Memorial Fund  
Attn: John Stilts, The Oaks Foundation  
715 Johnson Road  
Sebring, Ohio 44672



## **Pastor's Letter**

*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*



When we edited and re-worded the proposed mission statement for Sunnyhills several months ago, I thought it sounded pretty good, but frankly, I didn't know if it caught the essence of who we are or who we strive to be. "Ethnically and theologically diverse, reconciling, and inclusive" – we're very centered with that, I think. And I think we are "knowing and living in God's goodness and living in God's love". This is what I see as I watch the entire congregation interact with newcomers, with children, with each other whether we agree on issues or not, and whether we are from similar backgrounds or family lives or not. It is a joy to behold! We are partners in God's creation not only in the way we care for our own properties but are aware of our responsibilities for stewardship of resources, responsible use of all assets, and a respectful attitude toward all creation. We take different stances on what being respectful toward all creation means to each of us - and that's part of the package too.

The last part of our mission statement describes our response as we live out our call in the life of Jesus Christ. That is, what do we do as a result of the blessings we have received and the love we know through Jesus Christ? In this last part of the mission statement we try to articulate how we turn to the outside and share the gifts we have received: We welcome, nurture, equip and serve. Are we doing that? How are we doing? How can we do better?

These, of course, are two-fold questions. Are the statements of the Mission statement the right statements? And if they are, how are we doing in that regard? I think, by the way, we do great with people who find their way in our doors.

I invite you to think about our mission statement. We will bring it to a congregational meeting during Lent (March and April) this year for an official vote. And think about ways we can make it a truer reflection of who we are. Have you invited anyone to church lately?

Grace and Peace,

*Shirley*

# African-American Notables



## Community Breakfast Sunday, February 2nd—7:00 a.m.

The Community Arts and History Support/Community Museums and the African-American Projects invite Milpitas residents to the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Community Breakfast on Sunday, February 2nd, from 7:00-8:30 a.m. in Jones Hall.

The theme of this month's breakfast is the African-American contribution to daily life. Little-known details about inventions and discoveries of African-Americans which are now taken for granted will be discussed. There will also be a special tribute to community pioneers Fannie and Emmitt Hatch.

The breakfast is free (a good-will offering will be collected). Everyone is welcome. Even if you've never attended a Community Breakfast before, you'll want to be a part of this intriguing and informative gathering.

## Income and Expenses November-December 2002

INCOME			
	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Offerings	\$2,843	\$3,675	\$6,518
Bldg. Use, etc.	2,099	9,188	11,287
Special Giving	565	562	1,127
Chicago Title Co.		33,000	33,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,507</b>	<b>\$46,407</b>	<b>\$51,914</b>

EXPENSES			
Mission&Outreach	\$1,048	\$1,451	\$2,499
Operating Exp.	1,859	12,121	13,980
Pastor & Staff	3,386	3,246	6,632
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,294</b>	<b>\$16,818</b>	<b>\$23,112</b>

Fund Balances		
SJ Family Shelter	\$10	\$85
'363' Fund	\$85	\$86
Cash on Hand	\$9,031	\$38,001



## WATCH February Special Offering

WATCH (Women and Their Children's Housing) provides up to three years of counseling, subsidized housing, and support services to formerly battered women and their children. The average stay in the WATCH program is two years before women and their children move on to permanent housing.

The goal of WATCH is to break the cycle of violence by assisting women and their children to develop non-violent lifestyles and empowering them to attain economic self-sufficiency and emotional stability.

WATCH started its programs in 1987 and serves all of Santa Clara County. More than 1,500 battered women and children have been successfully transitioned into independent lives at WATCH.

More information is available on the web at: <http://www.watchworks.org>