

June 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.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Sunnyhills Remembers . . .

Jerry and Netha Thacker Early Wedding In New SUMC Sanctuary

Irene Jefferson has been contacting long-time and former members of SUMC and collecting their memories of early days in our church. Recently Netha Thacker reminisced about her wedding day. Does anyone else remember this event? Were you present? Was it indeed the first wedding at Sunnyhills? Please contact Irene Jefferson (408/262-2374) with any additional details we can add to the report. Photos available on the SUMC website (see URL above).

April 6, 2003

Dear Irene,

How lovely to hear from you. I have wonderful memories of the Sunnyhills Methodist Church—from meeting for services in the Union Hall to getting married in the “new” sanctuary. I think the sanctuary was still pretty new when I got married there in November 1964. I wonder if mine was the first wedding in that building. I remember that Rev. Hicks was very nervous—his hands were shaking as he held the book to read the service.

The church family made Sunnyhills Church such a special place. I think most of the church members were at my wedding. I remember that the church women decorated the church for the ceremony and provided coffee and punch for the reception that followed—in the same room.

I don't know if I have much that will help the project, although I think the church and community is worthy of commemoration. I'm enclosing copies of some photos from my wedding (November 21, 1964) and one from my sister's wedding, also at Sunnyhills, three years later (November 8, 1967).

(Continued on Page 4)

Celebration of Marriage

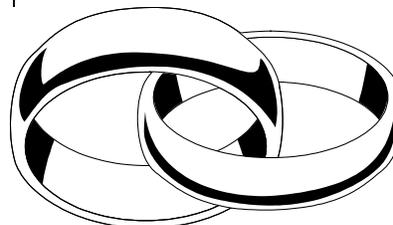
**Bring a Photo of
Your Wedding Day
To Share!**

Sunday—June 29th

In honor of June weddings and all happy couples, Sunnyhills is celebrating marriages!

Join in the celebration! Bring a copy of your wedding photo, a picture of your family from early in your marriage, your wedding album, or other memento from your happy day to display and share with the congregation.

Don and Eugenia Allen Egbert are planning a special social time.



Pastor's Letter

Memorial Day, end of the school year just around the corner, warm, sunny weather and Annual Conference—all are signs that summer time is almost here! Sunnyhills' Church School barbeque potluck lunch is planned for June 8th. We'll have lots of food, great fellowship, and a good time for all. I hope you will be able to stay for lunch on that day. We need everyone, whether you have participated in Church School or not!



For several years, Sunnyhills has welcomed a new pastor after Annual Conference. God (and the Bishop!) willing, I will continue to serve Sunnyhills, breaking this recent tradition. I believe I am where God is calling me to be, that we have begun to get to know each other, and have begun to hear where God is leading us. It is my hope and prayer that the work we have done together this year will be blessed and grow as we move on together.

This week I was proud to be able to tell our District Superintendent that Sunnyhills will pay 100% of our apportionments again this year. Apportionments are our share of mission, pension, and administrative costs funding the district, conference, and national United Methodist Church. In today's economy, many of our sister churches are unable to fund 100% of their share; as a consequence, the Conference is recasting budgets to reflect expected income.

Each of you can be proud and thankful for our current financial standing. Sunnyhills has come a long way from its financial crisis of several years ago. As a small church, though, things can change rapidly. Right now, our financial outlook is slightly behind projections. Summer can be a disjointed time in the life of the congregation and the church. Predictably, families take the opportunities to get away, to relax and take it easy, to take family vacations, travel, and camp. Of course, this means our Sunday morning attendance drops and our giving goes down as well. As you travel this summer, remember your church and its financial obligations. Let's keep our giving stable and strong through the summer.

Last summer, in my first few months with the congregation, we spent time together reflecting on core values of the congregation: spiritual growth, diversity, community, respectfulness and personal growth. Take a few minutes in the next week or so and think about these values. Do they ring true to who we are as a congregation? How have we lived them out in the last 12 months? Where have we fallen short? Jot me a note, or send me an email message (smacemon@pacbell.net), or call me on the phone to let me know what you think. If you want to be anonymous, that's OK. I'd like to hear from you!

Working for the Kingdom,

Shirley



Calendar Notes



Community Breakfast Milpitas Alliance for the Arts *Sunday, June 1st—7:00 a.m.*

Get an ARTitude in Milpitas! The Milpitas Alliance for the Arts invites Milpitas residents and friends to the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Community Breakfast on Sunday, June 1st, from 7:00-8:30 a.m. in Jones Hall.

The theme of this month's breakfast is Arts and Community within Milpitas. Julie Cherry and Larry Voellger will lead the discussion.

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.

Church School Year-End Barbeque *Sunday, June 8th*

Everyone is invited to help us celebrate the end of another Church School year with students, families, teachers, and friends. Our students have worked very hard on their Bible lessons and have added so much to our celebrations of worship. Come out and enjoy a special day with them.

Hamburgers and hot dogs supplied by the church, grilled to perfection by our stalwart chefs. Bring a side dish or dessert to share (sign up on the clipboard or leave a message with the church office) and enjoy a great meal with no kitchen cleanup!

WRAP

Saturday, June 14th
5:00 p.m. Potluck
6:00 p.m. Meeting

Everyone is welcome as we plan 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 at the potluck. Grace the business meeting with your attendance and help our mission grow!

Beacon Deadline *Friday, June 20th*

News to share? Please send it our way! Contact the *Beacon* editor, Cliveden Chew Haas, at (408) 262-5250.

Lunch Bunch *Sunday, June 29th*

Mmm, mmm! Those Methodists sure do love to eat! Join us at Baker's Square after the social time for a relaxed lunch together. If you enjoy good food and good company, you're one of the group! Mark your calendar and plan on a scrumptious time!

Lawn Mowing Help Needed!

Ole Twite has generously kept our lawns mowed during the winter and spring. He and Kay are now in Minnesota visiting family and friends for the summer. During his absence, our riding lawn mower needs a new pilot!

Can you help keep our lawns trimmed and neat? Please contact the church office for more details.

Sunnyhills Remembers . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

They aren't especially good pictures of the church itself, as the focus was on the people. These pictures are available electronically, if anyone wants me to e-mail them. (My e-mail address is: netha.jerry@highstream.net)

Mom was also looking into her "stuff" to see what she could send. She and Dad live out in Stockton. They're still doing well—mostly minor health problems. They have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Congratulations to your granddaughter on her graduation from Stanford. My oldest daughter works in the Stanford phone

center and lives in Sunnyvale. My middle daughter lives and works in San Jose. My youngest daughter lives near us—in Aptos. She's the only one who's married. We have no grandchildren, but my sister Ellen lets me spoil hers.

Hello to all your family—and all our old friends. Please contact me if I can do any thing else to help.

Love,
Netha

Jerry & Netha Thacker, 620 Breckenridge Lane, Soquel, CA 95073; (831) 476-9659

Prayer, Policy, and Politics

California-Nevada Annual Conference Meets in June



Guy Haas, Sunnyhills UMC's Lay Member, and Pastor Shirley, Clergy Member, will attend the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session on June 18-22 in Sacramento. This annual meeting carries out the business of the Conference (United Methodist churches in northern California and most of Nevada). This year we also elect delegates to General Conference, our international governing body, which will be held in 2004.

Recommendations and issues to come before the Conference are posted on the Conference Website, www.cnumc.org/2003con.htm Questions about budget, finance, pastoral appointments, establishing new congregations, disposition of church property, ministry in all its myriad forms, and positions on social justice issues are a few of the delegates' responsibilities. Issues this year include a comprehensive study on Asian-American Clergy and Ministry, moving the episcopal residence, and reorganizing camping/retreat ministries. Talk with Pastor Shirley or Guy if you have questions or would like more information about the workings of Annual Conference.

Please keep Guy and Shirley and the entire conference in your prayers as they seek to discern God's will amidst the proposals, rhetoric, arguments, finance reports, and many, many meetings.

Parking Lot Repairs Are Underway



You may have noticed that the upper parking lot is looking significantly better these days! Our stalwart volunteers and friends have hauled bags of asphalt (26 60-pound bags so far), cleaned out debris, and tamped their hearts out to fill in potholes.

Our first workday on May 3rd included Cliveden and Guy Haas, Daislyn Pease, Gwen Freeman, Bob Roll, Shirley Macemon, and Jose (a hard-working representative for Don and Eugenia Allen Egbert). The weather was not cooperative, but wet chilly weather didn't daunt our hard-working crew. The parking lot surface was prepared for the repairs and painting, windows washed, vegetation trimmed, and even some gardening got done. May 17th dawned much sunnier and warmer, and we were able to start filling the holes. Cliveden and Guy, Shirley, Daislyn, Rebecca Marcus, and friend Kim Larson managed to fill most of the holes. Watch for announcements for the last work day to finish filling the last two holes—our giant Compact Cruncher and a close rival out nearer to the street.

Not to be outdone, Rolf Haas has come over several afternoons after work and toiled away on repainting the parking lot lines. Please be sure to thank all our volunteers for their many hours of labor which help keep our grounds and facilities in order.

Pentecost Sunday

June 8th

Guest Preacher

In recognition of the San Jose Gay Pride Festival (June 7-8), Guest Preacher Dan Wall will deliver the message on Pentecost Sunday. Dan heard his call to ministry as a youth in North Carolina and began preaching in the Wesleyan Church at age 15.

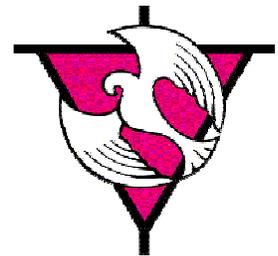
While pursuing his M.Div. at Duke University, Dan was ordained a Deacon in 1975 and appointed to the First UMC in Hickory, NC, in 1977. As it became clear that the United Methodist Church would not step back from the language introduced into the Discipline in 1972 regarding homosexuality, Dan gave up his credentials and left the ministry. He has worked in the publishing industry for the last 23 years.

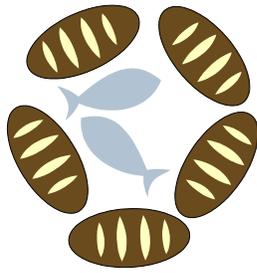
Please give our guest a warm welcome and enjoy a thoughtful and perceptive message.

Special Offering

Our special mission offering for June, collected on June 8th, will benefit the Reconciling Ministries Network, a movement of United Methodist individuals and congregations working for the full participation of all people in the United Methodist Church.

Reconciling Ministries will also sponsor a booth at the San Jose Gay Pride festival on June 7th and 8th. Sunnyhills UMC has worked on this event in the past and has an opportunity to help staff the RM booth for time slots on Saturday and Sunday. Talk to Pastor Shirley if you are interested in this opportunity to talk to folks about our church and Reconciling Ministries.





Help Feed the Hungry 363 Days a Year **SUMC Mission Giving for Local Homeless**

Do you remember our '363' can? It is for giving for the homeless the other 363 days of the year. (Everyone helps out at Thanksgiving and Christmas!) You can place your gift in the can itself or make a notation on your check and deposit it in the Sunday offering basket. Our funds help support the San Jose Family Shelter and the Milpitas Food Pantry, which focus on local homeless and hungry. For a small congregation we do very, very well with our giving for mission, but this small ministry needs your help. Please remember those less fortunate all through the year.

Broaden Your Horizons!

Summer Education Opportunities

California-Nevada Annual Conference United Methodist Women announces the 2003 Schools of Christian Mission. UMW Schools of Mission are open to all men and women ages 14 and up, and are an excellent connectional education program. Participants choose one of the three study areas to concentrate on. Classes for this year's schools are: (1) *Exodus: An African-American Methodist Journey*, (2) *Creating Interfaith Communities*, and (3) *Mexico, Our Neighbors Today*. See below for locations and dates. Additional information and registration forms are available from Pastor Shirley in the church office. Scholarships are available.

One Day Schools:

Walnut Creek UMC, July 19, 2003
Visalia UMC, July 26, 2003

Weekend Schools:

Reno, NV, August 15-17, 2003
Santa Nella, CA, September 12-14, 2003



Calling All Kids!

Summer Sunday School Classes

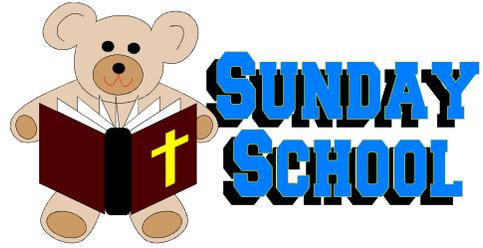
Our Summer Sunday School Classes will meet for six weeks, June 29th through August 10th (no class July 6th). Please mark your calendars and make a special effort to have children attend church on these Sundays.

Children are always welcome in worship (the Sunday school classes leave after the Children's Time), or childcare is provided in the preschool room starting at 9:30 a.m. if parents prefer.

Cliveden Chew Haas and Pastor Shirley will lead the Primary Class (third-seventh grades) in Bible stories, arts and crafts, and very lively singing. The Beginner Class (preschool-second grade) will also meet. Teachers and curriculum for this class are provided by St. Joseph Episcopal Church.

Visitors and friends are always welcome in our classes. We look forward to a lively and informative summer session together!

Teaching Team Needed New Primary Sunday School Class Forming in September



The joint Sunday School program combining students from Sunnyhills UMC and St. Joseph Episcopal Church continues to grow and thrive. Classes meet from 10:30-11:15 a.m. during the school year (except major holidays). During the last two years, we have held two classes each Sunday. St. Joseph's provides the Beginner teachers and SUMC organizes the older class. Our children enjoy learning about the Bible and creating arts and crafts centered around their lesson.

Next year we plan to inaugurate a third class. St. Joseph's will continue to staff the Preschool-Kindergarten class. SUMC will operate both First-Third Grade and Fourth-Seventh Grade classes. We will use the United Methodist curriculum for each age group, which has excellent lessons focusing on important Bible characters and events. There are plenty of suggestions and teacher guidelines to choose from.

Can you help teach our Primary Class next year? Please contact Pastor Shirley or Cliveden Chew Haas (408/262-5250) for more information.



Our warmest congratulations and best wishes to our 2003 graduates:

Stacey Freeman is graduating Magna Cum Laude from San Jose State University. Her major is communication with a minor in English literature. She will be continuing on at the graduate school of SJSU in the credential program. Gwen and Jack Freeman are the beaming parents.

Irene and Billy Jefferson are the proud grandparents of Jennifer Brooke Alexander. She graduates this month from Stanford University, majoring in psychology and Spanish.

Scott Zeise is celebrating his high school graduation from homeschool in a ceremony

Congregational Life

at Milpitas City Hall. Scott also has 64 college units from Ohlone College. Happy parents are Ann and Fred Zeise.

Other news:

Rebecca Marcus has been accepted into Middle College for her last two years of high school. This Fremont Union HS District program is held in conjunction with DeAnza College, where Rebecca will take her classes. Mom and Dad (Shirley Macemon and John Marcus) are ready to bust their buttons! Look for a graduation announcement in 2005!

Please remember in your prayers our long-time members and supporters Margaret and Warren Scott. Margaret Scott fell recently and compacted disks in her back. She tires easily but will welcome your cards and letters.