

July 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.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Welcome Back, Pastor Shirley!

Afternoon Social and Pool Party

Sunday—August 3rd—2:00-5:00 p.m.

Join the celebration as we welcome Pastor Shirley back for another year with Sunnyhills UMC—plus many more to come, we hope!

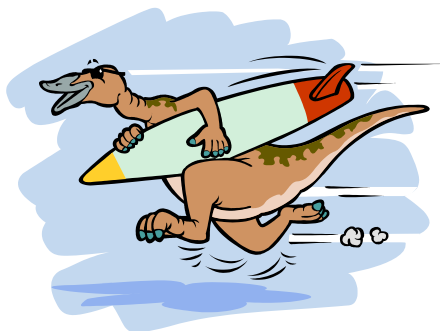
Shirley Macemon has brought new light, new life, and her own inimitable brand of enthusiastic energy to Sunnyhills UMC. Help us celebrate her ministry and recognize her many gifts, organizational and inspirational, among us.

Share the memories—choir, new music and old, adult Sunday school, some forty-odd sermons and homilies, blessing the animals, leadership at home and on the District Spiritual Gifts Team, home-building mission to Mexico, Christmas crafts, new members, the Lunch Bunch, work days (asphalt, anyone?), and a whole lotta wonderful potlucks! Look ahead—what comes next?

The swimming pool is available for those who enjoy the water, so bring your swimming gear. Don't despair if you hate the wet—Snag a plate of goodies, claim a comfy chair, and savor the action from afar.

Please bring a finger food snack to share. Beverages provided.

Meet at Bob and Jo Roll's, 3671 Tunis Ave., San Jose, (408) 262-3183. From Landess Ave. (east end of Montague Expwy.) turn right on Piedmont Road, then left on Tunis two blocks before Cropley Ave.



Better Butters

Fight Hunger

Sunday School Funds 2 HPI Goats



The Primary Class (third through seventh grades) of our combined SUMC-St. Joseph's Sunday school has raised \$240 to purchase two goats through Heifer Project Intl. The children raised money through their weekly offerings, saved all through the year, to help make a lasting difference for two hungry families.

Goat's milk is the only milk known to half the world's people, but 80% of mothers and children in rural areas do not have any

Continued on Page 4

Pastor's Letter

The 155th session of the Northern California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church opened dramatically last week with 75 children, youth and adults from eight churches dancing, singing, drumming and chanting a traditional Filipino festival of lights performance. Over the five days of Annual Conference, lay and clergy members and other guests worshipped, sang, ate, discussed, (respectfully) argued, lobbied, campaigned, voted, and fellowshiped in the tradition of our Wesleyan heritage.



Annual Conference is, of course, the time when the business of our Conference is accomplished—fixing clergy appointments, approving the conference budget, electing delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences. Annual Conference is the time when retiring clergy are recognized for their commitment to ministry, when new clergy and lay persons filling pulpits are introduced to the Conference, when lay women and men are lifted up for work in local, district, and wider church activities, when committees and program areas report on their work and discoveries of the past year.

Annual Conference is also a time for worship. For some of us, it is almost the only time of the year when we can sit in the congregation instead of leading a service! And we sang. Musicians whom you might know, Dan Damon and Dirk Damonte, played for us. Dr. Gene Lowry graced us with jazz and told of its roots in Christian music. Dr. Lowry could have preached all day as far as I was concerned—his Gospel story telling, woven it in and out with his own experiences, produced a powerful message of the love of Jesus Christ for all persons.

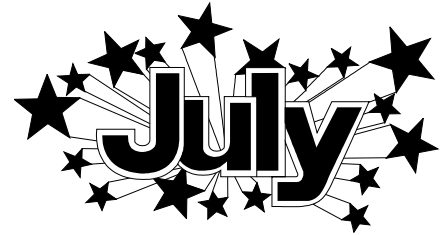
As usual, our Conference wrestled with several sensitive issues. We heard reports from our task force on Human Sexuality, with recommendations on resources for Child Protection Policies. The Bishop and Cabinet are also addressing guidelines to assist local churches in ministering to registered sex offenders in our congregations. Unfortunately, this policy comes late for one church in the conference, which is struggling in the aftermath of the discovery of a registered sex offender in their midst when that person's actions became local news. As a church, our complex role—providing a place where our children are safe AND offering the welcoming and loving hand of Jesus to all—creates times of hard decisions where policies are not obvious or easy.

I return from Annual Conference tired but refreshed, recognizing that we are not alone as a small church seeking ways to listen to God's will for our future and ways to reach out to a community that doesn't "look" like we do. We are one among many seeking to be faithful to the church of Jesus Christ and recognizing that sometimes the institution gets in the way of being the Body of Christ. We're not alone in trying to do the best we can!

Continued on Page 3



Calendar Notes



WRAP (Administrative Council)

No WRAP Meeting in July!

Board of Trustees

*Sunday, July 20th
11:45 a.m.*

Members of the Board of Trustees and anyone having business with this committee, please mark your calendars. The Trustees' responsibilities include church property and buildings. To place an item on the agenda, please call the church office or Chairman Rolf Haas (510/247-9376).

Beacon Deadline

Thursday, July 24th

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

Pastor's Letter

(Continued from Page 2)

Or, as John Wesley admonishes, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Working for the Kingdom,

Shirley

Welcome Back Party for Pastor Shirley!

*Sunday, August 3rd
2:00-5:00 p.m.*

at Bob & Jo Roll's house
3671 Tunis Ave., San Jose
(408) 262-3183

Help us welcome Pastor Shirley home again in style! Bring swimming togs if you want to jump in the pool; enjoy the pleasant deck and good company if you don't. Please bring finger food snacks to share. See article on page 1.

Summer Sunday School

*June 29th-August 10th
(No class on July 6th)*

Our Summer Sunday School classes are lively and educational. The Primary Class is focusing on the parables of Jesus while the Beginner Class is enjoying a vacation church school curriculum. Crafts, singing, and other delights. All children are welcome—bring your friends!



Sing Your Heart Out!

The Summer Choir meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to

warm up before service and again after the service to practice the next week's piece. Music is contemporary and not difficult. Drop-ins are welcome—Come when you're in town and sing to the Lord!

Sunday School Sends HPI Goats to Hungry Families

(Continued from Page 1)

type of milk or milk products. The Sunday School students' gift of two dairy goats provides lasting, meaningful support to two struggling families on the other side of the world.

Goats can thrive in extreme climates and on poor, dry land by eating grass and leaves. Each dairy goat can supply a family with up to several quarts of nutritious milk a day—a ton of milk a year!

Extra milk can be sold or used to make cheese, butter or yogurt. Families use goat manure to fertilize gardens. And because goats often have two or three kids a year, Heifer partners can start small dairies that pay for food, health care and education.

It's no wonder the gentle nanny goat is often called the "foster mother to the human race!"



A Hero's Story

Until Francia and her young grandson, Jose, received a goat from Heifer, hunger and poverty were all they had ever known in the Dominican Republic.

But with their animal, they found hope. The goat gave them plenty of milk and produced kids to sell for income.

One morning, as the goat started her third birthing, Jose noticed the goat having trouble. The young boy knew he had to help the nanny. If she died, his family would be set back dramatically.

Jose's training had taught him how a kid should be positioned in the womb. Using plastic bags as gloves, Jose carefully put his hands inside the nanny's womb and discovered one of the kid's legs was in the wrong position.

A few minutes after Jose moved the leg, the goat gave birth to healthy twins. When news of Jose's story spread, people came from throughout the village to see the young hero and his goats.

Last year our Sunday School sent a flock of chickens to help end hunger permanently in one small family. Each gift is passed on to neighbors, and our flock of chickens continues to bring eggs, meat, and income to their part of the world. Soon two new nanny goats will join their own new homes and begin their part in the struggle for a decent, sustainable life for all God's children!

For more information on Heifer Project and their fight to end hunger and poverty, visit their website at <http://heifer.org/> (Thanks to HPI for goat information.)



An Ark for Today's World

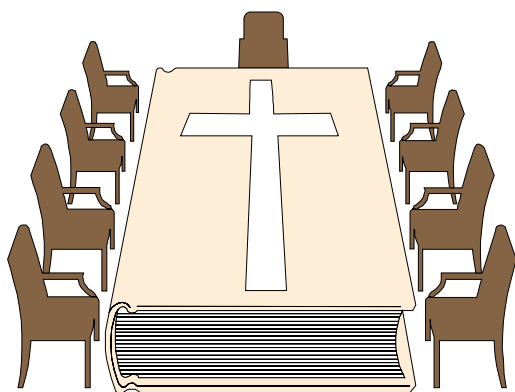
Conflict Management

Be a Part of Our SUMC Team

Saturday—October 4th—8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The San Jose District Spiritual Gifts Team, whose members include our own Pastor Shirley, is hosting a workshop on Conflict Management on October 4th. with Speed Leas.

Conflict is part of everyday life—even church life. In a church, conflict may affect the life of a congregation, impede its mission, or make church leaders uncomfortable and ineffective in their roles. Before conflict takes its toll, individuals need to learn appropriate techniques to recognize and manage conflicts.



This workshop is designed for lay and professional church leaders: pastors, lay leaders, committee and board chairpersons, teachers, individuals and leaders in all parts of the life of the church who are concerned with managing complex and often volatile relationships within the congregational context.

Pastor Shirley plans on taking a team from Sunnyhills to this important workshop. Early Bird registration, postmarked by July 15th, is \$35 per person, which includes lunch and all materials. Contact the church office to indicate your interest or for more information.

Don't Forget!

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. Classes for this year's schools include *Exodus: An African-American Methodist Journey*, *Creating Interfaith Communities*, and *Mexico*. A stunning, spiritual, and activist event! Additional information and registration forms are available from Pastor Shirley. Scholarships are available.

Four schools to choose from:

Walnut Creek UMC, July 19, 2003

Visalia UMC, July 26, 2003

Reno, NV, August 15-17, 2003

Santa Nella, CA, September 12-14, 2003

Save the Date!

Spiritual Leaders Summit At Asilomar

September 2-5, 2003

Spiritual Leaders Summit, previously known as Pastor's School, invites clergy **and** lay persons to Asilomar, September 2-5, for retreat, spiritual refreshment and fellowship. This year's theme, Practical Spirituality, will be addressed by presenters John Cobb, process theologian and author, and Marjorie Thompson, contributor to many Upper Room publications and author of *Soul Feast*. More information and registration materials are available in the church office and from the Conference Website: http://www.cnumc.org/spiritual_leaders.htm