

August 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

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.

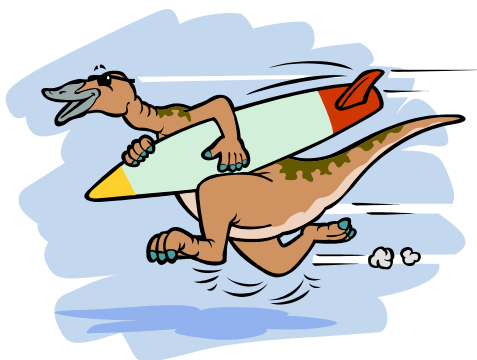
Share the memories—choir, new music and old, adult Sunday school, some forty-odd sermons and homilies, blessing the animals, leadership at home and on the San Jose District Spiritual Gifts Team, home-building mission to Mexico, Christmas crafts, new members, the Lunch Bunch, work days (asphalt, anyone?), 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 splashin' 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. Head east on Landess Ave. (east end of Montague Expwy.), turn right on Piedmont Road, then left on Tunis two blocks before Cropley Ave.



Only Two More Weeks of Summer Sunday School!

Calling all kids! Join us for snacks, Bible study, crafts, and singing on August 3rd and August 10th. The Primary Class (3rd through 7th grades) is focusing on sayings of Jesus; the Beginner Class (preschool through 2nd grade) is studying a vacation church school curriculum.

Everyone is welcome—Bring your friends and come join the fun!

Pastor's Letter

This summer, June 28, to be precise, marks the 300th anniversary of John Wesley's birth. John Wesley, of course, is the Anglican priest who is the founder of the Methodist Church. If you are aware of the activities of Methodism across the globe, you might have noticed Wesley festivals in Great Britain, tours of Great Britain led by pastors from our own conferences, Wesley study groups formed in many churches, or a common preaching theme: Wesley and the United Methodist Church.



During July, my Sunday messages brought *Basic Wesley* and the *Wesleyan Quadrilateral* to our worshipping community. These placed John Wesley in the events and issues of his time, as well as exploring the thought processes that were and are important to his theological work. We'll continue the Wesley emphasis in August, with *Grace and Responsibility*, exploring our United Methodist approach and response to God's Love, and finally *Evangelical Economics: John Wesley and Money*.

Although it was Wesley's 300th birthday that nudged me to begin this series of messages, the topics and content have been shaped by several conversations I've had recently. "Why are we a United Methodist Church?" is a simple distillation of several questions that have been voiced in several ways.

The questions got me to wondering, "How much difference does it make, personally, as a congregation and as a denomination, that we follow the basics and guidelines set in place by our founder? If Wesley were preaching today, what would he have to say about some of the dissent we deal with in the church? Would he solve it, or would he manage it?"

I can't say that I have necessarily found answers to these questions, but I now have a better appreciation of John Wesley's thought processes, his passions, and the things he held dear in his faith life.

If you've missed the July messages and would like a copy, call the church office and we'll send you one. Or, you can read all my messages from the website (<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills>). Guy Haas, our amazing web master, is publishing my messages as soon as I get them to him, usually by Monday or Tuesday of each week. If you have questions about what you read, don't hesitate to call!

Working for the Kingdom,
Shirley

Lawn Mowing Help Needed!

Weeds grow even in the summer, and our lawns desperately need mowing. We need several volunteers to join a group to mow and trim once a month through October.

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



Calendar Notes



Welcome Back Party for Pastor Shirley!

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

Help us welcome Pastor Shirley home again in style! *(See Page 1 for details)*

WRAP (Administrative Council)

Saturday, August 16th

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!

Summer Sunday School

June 29th-August 10th

Our Summer Sunday School classes are lively and educational. All children are welcome—bring your friends!

(See Page 1 for details)

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!



Income and Expenses

INCOME:	April 2003	May 2003	June 2003	Totals
Offerings	\$2,503	\$3,308	\$3,068	\$ 8,878
Building Use & Other	2,976	3,167	3,725	9,868
Special Giving	124	202	372	698
Income Totals	\$5,603	\$6,676	\$7,166	\$19,445
EXPENSES:				
Mission & Outreach	\$1,203	\$ 883	\$1,225	\$3,310
Operating Expenses	2,545	2,588	3,365	8,498
Pastor & Staff Support	3,073	4,146	4,039	11,259
Expense Totals	\$6,821	\$7,618	\$8,629	\$23,067
Fund Balances		June 2003		
San Jose Family Shelter		\$10		
'363' Fund		\$56		
Cash on Hand		\$36,071		



O, Susanna!

our movement's 'uppity' matriarch

by Charles Wallace



What kind of a Christian woman would:

- Leave her father's church as a teen-ager and join up with the tradition that once persecuted him?
- Risk her marriage by refusing to give in to her husband in a political quarrel?
- Disobey her husband—and church law—by holding “irregular” prayer meetings in his absence?
- Tell her college professor-son what he ought to be reading?
- Rebuke her newly converted son for a loss of theological perspective?

None other than Susanna Wesley—mother of United Methodism founders John and Charles—who is much more interesting when we read her actual words than the prevailing myth allows.

The myth, of course, has elements of truth. Raised a Puritan, Susanna Wesley spent most of her adult life as a communicant of the Church of England. She literally “put the method into Methodism” in the regular way of life she instilled in her 10 children.

However, as a recently published edition of her complete writings shows, Susanna Wesley was no ordinary Christian woman, especially given late 17th- and early 18th-century expectations.

Reading her letters, spiritual diaries and teachings on “practical divinity” meant primarily for educating her daughters, we glimpse an intelligent, well-read, strong and conscientious woman.

Her spirituality, in fact, was the mainspring of a brand of Christian feminism visible at every stage of her life. As a girl not quite 13, Susanna had repudiated her father Samuel Annesley's moderate Puritanism and joined the state church, making her decision after reading and weighing the theological evidence.

After marrying Samuel Wesley, another young convert, she played the dutiful parson's wife—up to a point. But when her husband's prayer for King William offended her “divine-right” belief that James II's line belonged on the throne, she refused to say “amen,” and the marriage nearly dissolved. Six months later they reconciled, however, and not long after she gave birth to John.

In 1712, Susanna Wesley's conscience moved her to lead Sunday evening worship in the rectory kitchen—against her husband's wishes—while he was away on church business. And a decade later she regularly tutored John by mail, pro-

viding him the practical theological perspective that Oxford University could not supply.

The strong-minded mother was also not above taming the emotional excess of newly converted son Charles. She once scolded him with, “you are fallen into an odd way of thinking” in response to his claim of no spiritual life or “justifying faith” prior to his recent experience.

And at the end of her life, she published a scathing, anonymous critique of George Whitefield, perhaps the most popular preacher of the day, criticizing him for his Calvinist opposition to her son John's teachings.

About Susanna Wesley

- Wrote her own commentary on the Apostles' Creed, “improving” the work of a respected Anglican bishop, and began one on the Ten Commandments.
- Wrote extensively in her diary on the doctrine of Christian perfection when John was still a boy.
- Wrote a much-published letter on child-rearing considered a classic evangelical statement on the subject for 200 years after her death.
- Vowed never to “drink above two glasses of any strong liquor at one time.”
- Spent time alone meditating and writing in her spiritual diary three times a day.
- Was recognized by son John as a “preacher of righteousness,” despite her gender and the times.

To Learn More

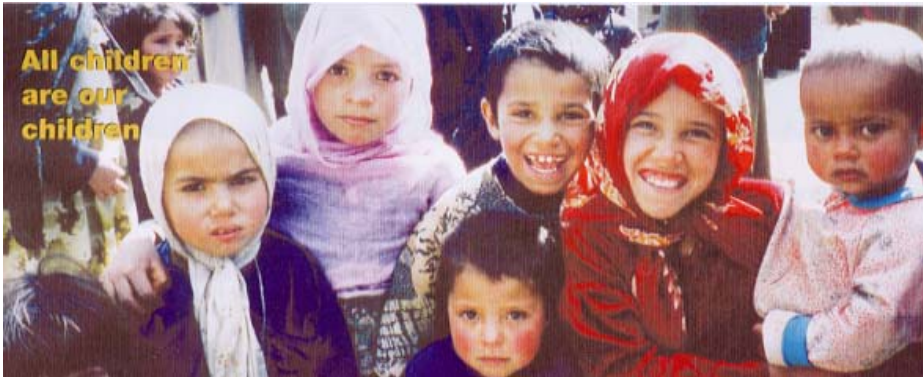
They Went Out Not Knowing: An Encyclopedia of 100 Women in Mission by the Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department for the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. To order, call (800) 305-9857.

For general information on women in United Methodist History, contact the General Commission on Archives and History, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940, (973) 408-3189; e-mail: cyrigoyen@gcah.org; or visit their Web site: www.gcah.org; or contact your conference archives and history commission.

—The Rev. **Charles Wallace Jr.** is chaplain at United Methodist-related Willamette University in Salem, Ore., and member of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. He also wrote *Susanna Wesley: The Complete Writings* (Oxford University Press).

Bay Area Interfaith Project

“Gift of the Heart” Health Kits & School Kits for the Children of Iraq



At the height of the Iraq War, faith leaders from around the Bay Area gathered to discuss ways we could work together to provide relief for the children of Iraq; build bridges of trust and cooperation; and make sure that the suffering of those in need was not overshadowed and forgotten.

Church World Services



Church World Services (CWS), a highly regarded faith-based international relief organization, is sponsoring a drive to collect items for “Gift of the Heart” health kits and schools kits to help meet the day-to-day needs of Iraqi children. Sunnyhills UMC is participating in the Bay Area drive being coordinated by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Burlingame and the San Francisco United Methodist Mission in partnership with CWS.

Please bring your gift of items from the list below during August and place in the collection box at the rear of the sanctuary. Large ziploc

bags are available to hold the completed kits, or you may donate various individual items.

The kits will be collected on Sunday, August 31st, and turned in at the Community Interfaith Picnic.

Sunnyhills has a long and honorable tradition of participating in interfaith projects to benefit others. The SUMC effort is being coordinated by our congregation’s interfaith reps, Cathy Deppe and Alex Walker, in honor of their granddaughter’s baptism and her Sunnyhills church family. Our numbers are small, but our hearts are large!

Health Kit Items

hand towel	metal nail file or clipper
wash cloth	toothbrush
bar of soap	tube of toothpaste
comb	six band-aids

School Kit Items

blunt scissors	box of 24 crayons
30 cm (12”) ruler	pads or notebooks of ruled paper
pencil sharpener	12 sheets colored construction paper
6 new pencils w/ erasers	
large eraser	

