

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.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills

September 2003

Sunday School Starts September 7th



September 7th
10:45 a.m.

In celebration of the new Sunday School program, we are having a very special **SUNDAE**

Fellowship Time on September 7th immediately following worship.

Several volunteers are bringing all the ice cream, whipped cream, scoops, bowls, and spoons we will need.

Your job is to bring your favorite ice cream topping(s) to share! Do you like hot fudge or chocolate sauce? Pineapple or strawberry? What about caramel or butter-scotch? Or a banana for underneath your work of sundae art? Maybe nuts and a cherry on top?

You probably have ideas we haven't even thought of, don't you? Well, bring them along to share on September 7th and we'll all have some fabulous home-made sundae creations. Yum!



New Schedule ❖ New Classes

❖ New Curriculum ❖

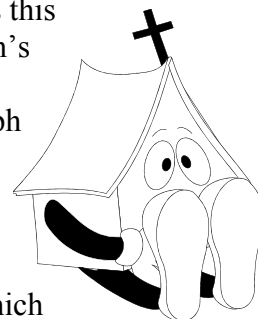
Preschool & Kindergarten

Early Elementary (Grades 1-3)

Older Elementary (Grades 4-7)

All Classes Meet 10:15-11:15 a.m.

We are starting a new class this year to better meet our children's needs. Once again, Sunnyhills United Methodist and St. Joseph Episcopal churches will run a joint Sunday School. Attendance in both churches is growing and our students will benefit from class divisions which more closely reflect their reading abilities.



The new Early Elementary Class for children in Grades 1, 2, and 3, will meet in the Piano Room in the upper building. This class will be lead by our own Laine Silag Sazon and Robin Horn from the St. Joseph the Worker congregation. The Older Elementary Class meets in the front of Jones Hall and continues to be in the able hands of SUMC's Cliveden Chew Haas, while the Preschool-Kindergarten Class meets in the Art Room of the upper building and is lovingly taught by Nancy Johnsen, Diane Lovelace, Anne Pomeroy, and Leslie Padilla of St. Joseph's.

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Pastor's Letter

School has started, Labor Day is passing and autumn is just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I'm not sure where the summer went as it flew by! I had a whole stack of books I was going to read this summer. I remember summers in the past (maybe in the distant past!) when I got a lot of reading done, and some part of me still plans to catch up with reading in the summer months. Most of those books still sit in a pile—some on my desk at church, some on my desk at home—waiting for my attention. I have read some amazing things, though this summer most of them have been on my computer.



I use my computer and electronic mail quite a bit. I got an email message recently that I thought I'd share. Evidently, some social scientists and statisticians got together and compiled some statistics on activities, accidents and safety:

- ❖ automobiles are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
- ❖ 17% of all fatal accidents occur in the home.
- ❖ 14% of all fatal accidents occur to pedestrians
- ❖ 16% of all fatal accidents involve travel by air, rail, or water
- ❖ of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths attributed to accidents occur in hospitals
- ❖ fewer than .001% (one one-hundredth of one percent) of all accidental deaths occur during worship services

What does this mean? Clearly, that the safest place to be on Sunday morning is in church! Now, I don't take these unattributed statistics too seriously, even though I seriously believe the best place to be on Sunday morning is in church! Worship is the place to sing, to praise God, to lift your voice in thanksgiving, to listen to the Word, and last but certainly not least, to be with friends and community.

If you've been away, make a point of getting back to worship in September. Join us for special music adventures, for a time to be in community in worship, and in fellowship with old and new friends. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to call the church office. Leave a message or talk to Alex, our administrative assistant, or Pastor Shirley. We'll arrange for someone to pick you up. We hope to hear from you.

Grace and peace,

Shirley

What Are Those Fund Balances?

SUMC members give regularly to support local ministries. Two ongoing missions are the San Jose Family Shelter and our '363' Fund. The shelter serves homeless families; the '363' Fund helps feed the hungry outside of Thanksgiving and Christmas. So far this year we have contributed \$190 to the SJ Family Shelter and \$240 through '363'. Mark your donations and drop in the offering plate.





Dessert Extravaganza and Hymnfest

Sunday—September 21st—6:30-8:00 p.m.

Bring a Friend!

Grab your forks, tune up your voices, and bring a friend. Sunday evening, September 21st, will find our sanctuary graced with luscious desserts and aromatic coffees, good friends and conversations, and, in John Wesley's words, the opportunity to "sing lustily" some of your favorite hymns, old, new, and in-between.

We'll start at 6:30 p.m. with dessert (yum!) and coffee, then move around the piano for an evening of favorite songs and hymns. Want to make sure we don't forget your favorite music? Pastor Shirley and Cliveden Chew Haas are collecting YOUR favorites and a few words about why you cherish them. Does *Amazing Grace* take you to a special place? Perhaps *Pass It On* was sung at a final campfire that was formative for you. For Pastor Shirley, *On Eagle's Wings* was sung at her wedding; it will always be special. *Many Gifts, One Spirit* reminds Cliveden of her part in the struggles to help a diverse church accept and love those "outside."

Our congregational bakers are cooking their hearts out, and their specialties are just too good to be missed. Bring a good appetite and a willing voice.

We want to have YOU here. We hope you will bring a friend. Child care is provided. If you don't drive in the evening, call the church office and we'll arrange a ride. This evening will be too good to miss!

September Mission Offering



Each year at Annual Conference, churches around the California-Nevada Conference are invited to participate in a Conference-sponsored mission offering. This year, one of the missions supported is the **Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty**.

We at Sunnyhills UMC have chosen to coordinate our participation in this Conference mission offering with the kickoff of our fall Sunday School activities. As we prepare our children for school in the fall and ready our church and Sunday School teachers for a year of stimulating and exciting activities, it is appropriate to remember those children in the world for whom even the basics of life are a struggle. Conditions among many of the world's children and impoverished continue to worsen. The global economy increasingly resembles a giant casino in which the few are enormously enriched while myriads toil without prospect of a decent chance at life's necessities. Women, children, and the poor continue to be the primary victims of violence and premature death.

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Celebrations!

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries:

9/12 Thelma & Robert Wilber
9/21 Aida & Jun Cruz

Birthdays:

9/5 Eric Cruz
9/15 Erin Cruz
9/15 Rolf Haas
9/22 Warren Scott
9/26 Irene Jefferson



Warmest wishes for many happy returns from your church family!



Sunday School Begins September 7th

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All of our classes are using the Exploring Faith curriculum from the United Methodist affiliated Cokesbury publishers this year. One feature of this approach is that all age groups will study the same Bible stories in their weekly lessons, each geared to their own age group. Siblings in different classes can compare notes after class, and parents can discuss the stories with all their children. The Fall curriculum begins with stories of God's love: Ruth, Boaz, Hosea, 1 Corinthians, and 1 John, and then moves on to the building of the nation of ancient Israel with Hannah, Samuel, Saul, and David.



The Bible is one long, wonderful, love letter to us from God. Through the Bible we see how God called us "good" from the moment we were created. We see how God interacted with the Hebrew people, reprimanding them when necessary, but loving them always. In the Bible we find the ultimate sign of love: God's gift to us of Jesus Christ. And in the Bible we hear that God will always be with us, through the person of Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can have faith that God will be present, no matter what the future holds.

Parents, look for your Exploring Faith with Families newsletter each quarter including information on the units and themes, church and home connections, and family activities. Help your child(ren) to be present in Sunday School each week. The classrooms are prepared, the curriculum is in hand, and the teachers have planned each class. All we need now are the students!

Friends and visitors are always very welcome in Sunday School. We plan for extras—bring yours along!



A Church for All God's Children

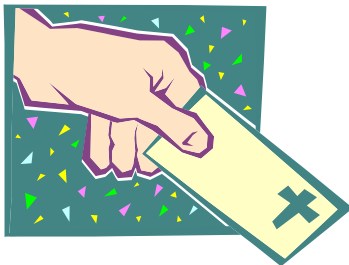


The Bishops Initiative

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The goal of this initiative, begun in 1996, is “To lead the United Methodist Church to a transforming response to the reality of God’s presence and ministry with the world’s children.” It sounds lofty and perhaps even so vague that it cannot be met. This summer, however, more than 500 children had daily, one-on-one reading time with United Methodist volunteers in churches across Dallas. The kids received a hot lunch. And, they learned about Jesus. Project Transformation, a program of the North Texas Annual Conference, is one among many examples of how conferences and churches are responding creatively to the United Methodist Council of Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty. Programs to design and implement new, innovative, and creative strategies for listening, discerning, and responding to children and the impoverished in our midst are funded through grants from this initiative to local churches and conferences throughout United Methodism. Additional information on the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty can be found at <http://www.umc.org/initiative/>.

Please give generously on September 7th. Our funds will be sent through our Annual Conference to benefit children in many areas.



Income and Expenses

INCOME:	July 2003
Offerings	\$2,579
Building Use & Other	4,036
Special Giving	411
Income Totals	\$7,027
EXPENSES:	
Mission & Outreach	\$ 739
Operating Expenses	1,373
Pastor & Staff Support	3,349
Expense Totals	\$5,461
Fund Balances	July 2003
San Jose Family Shelter	\$20
‘363’ Fund	\$76
Cash on Hand	\$37,637

smile Ice-cream cone centennial

The first ice cream cones appeared in New York City 100 years ago. They were invented by Italo Marchiony, an Italian immigrant who sold homemade lemon ice from a pushcart on the streets of New York. After too many customers walked off with his serving glasses, Marchiony started using a paper cone to hold the iced treat, and soon came up with the idea of using baked, edible cups. Consider an end-of-summer ice-cream social at your church. ■

