



January 2004

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

What Is Extension Ministry, And Why Should I Take Part? From Your Pastor

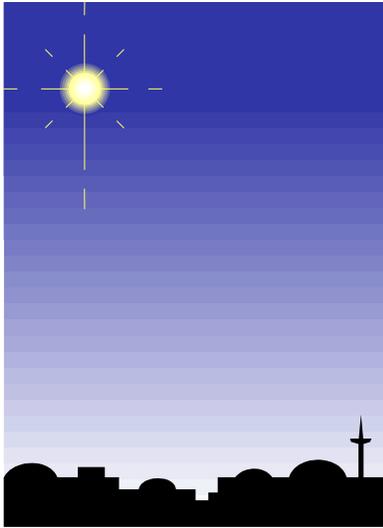
I find it interesting that when I take down my December calendar each year, and put up a calendar for the new year, the new year's calendar is so fresh and inviting. It has so much opportunity calling to me, so much promise, all those days and weeks of un-promised time, uncluttered with last-year's baggage, unfettered with the stuff that weighed me down from the previous year. At least that is how it seems when the clean calendar goes up. Of course, the sense of turning over a new leaf is what New Year's resolutions are all about, too. Leaving behind in the old year things that we can leave in the old year, and starting fresh in the new year with new direction and new energy.

We at Sunnyhills have a remarkable opportunity this year, as we turn over our "new leaf" in January. On January 18th, the Reverend Emil Sazon will begin a several-part training of our congregation in how to implement an Extension Ministry here at Sunnyhills. Emil and Laine Sazon and children Mark and Jessie began attending Sunnyhills in August 2002. Emil was ordained in a Philippine Conference of the United Methodist Church, was appointed to Valley Faith UMC in Sunnyvale for several years, and is currently on a leave of absence. Emil has advised your pastor on many issues and preached on occasion. Laine is a certified lay speaker and teaches the middle elementary Sunday School class. As we move toward an extension ministry, we are blessed to have both Emil and Laine to teach and guide this effort.

When I came to Sunnyhills as your new pastor in July 2002, I found a congregation that had been through several years of trauma but was ready to begin to heal. At that time, and since that time, we have talked about how we might grow, how we might return to being a strong and vital neighborhood church in Milpitas. We've talked about how the neighborhood has changed over

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RING IN THE NEW!



Extension Ministry

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the years, how the cultural and racial makeup of the area is changing faster than ever before. Among the things that have impressed me in these conversations are that we've been able to admit that we don't have all the answers. More importantly, we know that as we reach out to the neighborhood our cultural and racial makeup will increase in diversity and, in many ways, Sunnyhills will change.

This is where Extension Ministry fits. Think of Extension Ministries as a set of tools that help us shape how we move into the neighborhood, how we talk to our neighbors, and, especially, how we listen to our neighbors and to the neighborhood. What will the results look like? The "results" might look like Bible Study, a prayer group at a different time of day or week, one or more small groups developed around the needs we hear in the neighborhood. The "results" might look like changes in worship, or additional worship, a discipleship experience, a neighborhood choir, a youth group, an after-school experience.

Emil has used the Extension Ministry model to start new churches in the Philippines, as well as several states here in the US. We have the right guide. What we need is for each of us to find our place in the picture.

We each have gifts and talents. We each have things we do well, and things that are hard or that scare us. No matter what your gifts are, no matter what your impression of "going into the neighborhood" has been in the past, come to the training on Sunday afternoon, January 18th. Come and see what the excitement is about. Come and see what your part in the extension ministries might be.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Shirley

Church Painting and Repair

Volunteers In Mission Arrive March 9-13

Save these dates! March 9-13, 2004, the San Jose District VIM, a group of (mostly) retired folks who head out to churches to paint and repair when local congregations need help, arrives here at Sunnyhills. With the help of sturdy volunteers from our own congregation, our combined group will paint the building exteriors, the sanctuary and office interiors, replace rotten fascia boards, etc. We'll need assistance of all kinds, so please mark your calendars and plan to help spruce up our buildings.



JANUARY

SUMC Charge Conference
Sunday, January 11th
11:00 a.m.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important annual business meeting and election of officers. Nymphas Edwards, our San Jose District Superintendent, will preside. Among other business, we will review our accomplishments in 2003, set the pastor's salary, and approve mission goals for 2004.



**Extension Ministries
Workshop**
Sunday, January 18th
Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Workshop 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Sunnyhills UMC looks at new ways of growing and strengthening our church community. Reverend Emil Sazon begins training on how we might implement an Extension Ministry right here in Milpitas.

Please plan to stay after church, enjoy lunch with friends and members, and learn more about this vital church program. Child care available.

Calendar Notes

**WRAP
(Administrative Council)**

Saturday, January 24th
5:00 p.m. Potluck
6:00 p.m. Meeting

Everyone in the church community is welcome. Your comments, your ideas, your presence, and your energy will help craft the program and mission best suited to SUMC.

Please bring a dish to share and enjoy table fellowship at the potluck, then help us organize our life as a Christian fellowship at the planning meeting.



*Be sure to wish our Birthday guys
and gals Many Happy Returns!*

1/10 Don Egbert
1/16 Vennie Holloway
1/17 Rebecca Marcus
1/17 Eugenia Allen Egbert
1/20 Julia Jones
1/22 Laurie Haas
1/23 Guy Haas

*And don't forget our old friends
who will enjoy a birthday card:*

1/16 Joyce Johnson
1/29 Mackenzie Griffen
Anniversary:
1/19 Anita & Rueben Valderrama

Income and Expenses

INCOME:	November 2003	EXPENSES:	
Offerings	\$ 3,743	Mission & Outreach	\$ 749
Building Use & Other	5,935	Operating Expenses	2,481
Special Giving	76	Pastor & Staff Support	3,099
Income Total	\$ 9,754	Expense Totals	\$ 6,329

Fund Balances

San Jose Family Shelter	\$ 30
'363' Fund	\$ 79
Cash on Hand	\$45,528



Mexico Mission

This spring, just after Easter, April 17-24, participants from Sunnyhills will again join the Los Altos UMC building teams on a mission to Mexico. You will work harder than you may think you possibly can. You will get dirtier than you think possible. You will have the opportunity to experience more joy and change lives in ways that can only be described as miraculous. In four short days, you and your team will build a home for a family in Mexico.

Each of us has gifts that can contribute to this mission. Strong backs are important for mixing cement and the ability to use a measuring tape and saw 2x4s are important for creating walls. There is important work appropriate for children and their grandparents and everyone in between. Most jobs are learned as we go, and willingness is the most important tool of the trip.

If you are unable to accompany us on the mission trip, your support is still important. Before the trip, we will prepare welcoming baskets for the homeowners and collect a monetary gift to help defray the expenses of the mission. During the trip, prayer from those at home is powerful support. Think about how you might support this mission.



Registration information is available in the Sanctuary and the church office. Or call the office and we'll put it in the mail to you. Sunnyhills underwrites a portion of each participant's fees, so don't let the cost of the trip keep you from participating. The cost for adults is \$400, for children under 10, \$250. Fees include our hotel stays in San Diego. If you feel called to this mission, talk to Pastor Shirley—a way will be found for you to go! Your registration and a deposit of \$200 per person is due to the church office before January 14th to reserve your spot on this life-changing experience. Pray. Discuss this opportunity with your family. Join us. Your life will never be the same!



A First-Person Interview About Extension Ministry

On Sunday, December 7, Sunnyhills member Erik Larsen interviewed Pastor Emil Sazon about Extension Ministry. This is a type of ministry that our church will begin in the new year. Pastor Emil will be leading church members in a workshop on Sunday, January 18th, that will train lay leaders on how to engage in Extension Ministry. Erik had some basic questions for Pastor Emil and decided to share the answers with you in the *Beacon*.

Erik: What is an extension ministry?

Pastor Emil: It is an extended ministry of the church. It is about growth. An Extension Ministry is a visible sign that a church is growing and reaching out to people. Sharing the love of God is the basic thing about an Extension Ministry.

Erik: Can you tell me more about the workshop on Sunday, January 18th?

Pastor Emil: Yes, I will be leading a workshop that will first teach people about the importance of Extension Ministry. Second, I will help people gain skills in how to do an Extension Ministry. This is about preparing your spiritual life and preparing for a spiritual journey

Erik: What exactly will people be doing?

Pastor Emil: The basic component is communication. We will learn how to communicate the love of God to other people. There are so many aspects of this that we can explore, such as home visitations, giving out literature, visiting

schools, and talking with government officials. There are many things that we can do. It is a holistic approach to learning about other people and really listening to them. If people feel we are concerned about them, then they will open themselves to other opportunities.

Erik: Please tell me about your experiences with Extension Ministry.

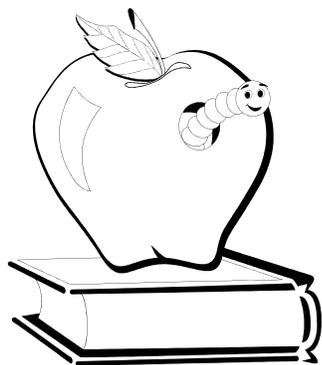
Pastor Emil: Since 1985 when I started as a local Pastor, I have used the Extension Ministry model to build a number of churches in the Philippines and the United States. It has been very interesting. I believe Extension Ministry is the vital sign of a growing church. If a church has no extension ministry, then it is just looking inward and focusing on itself. I don't believe that is the purpose of a church.

Erik: What else can you tell me?

Pastor Emil: Personally, I believe that Extension Ministry is the Great Commission. It is about discipleship, it is about discipling people and helping them disciple others. Extension Ministry is focused on church growth. If you grow an Extension Ministry you will expand church membership.

Erik: Will this focus on or target certain people?

Pastor Emil: No, I believe that God's love is for all. If we are willing to be led by the Holy Spirit, we will go out into the neighborhood and meet all kinds of new people. Extension ministry is for everyone. God's love is for all. That is the Great Commission. That is what I believe.



“What do you mean we can’t choose our own pastor?!!!”

“Why does the United Methodist Church baptize infants?”

“So, what is a conference?”

“And who is John Wesley, anyway?”

Questions such as these arise frequently among newcomers to the United Methodist Church—and from long-time church members who know little about the denomination beyond their own congregation.

“United Methodism 101,” an online course produced and sponsored by United

Educate Yourself!

United Methodism 101

Methodist Communications, can help you answer these questions. This interactive course introduces students to the history, theology, polity, and structure of the denomination, and will not only answer questions, but also raise others for discussion.

This highly interactive course (with video, audio, online quizzes, discussion boards, links, and online written content) is intended for busy people who want to learn on their own time schedule. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with facilitators and course participants through online discussions, January 21-February 25. Cost is \$12.00 per person.

For more information and to enroll, go to: <http://training.umcom.org>

WATCH (Women and Their Children’s Housing)

January Mission Emphasis

Domestic violence crosses all lines. About 1 million violent crimes per year are committed against persons by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

At least 85% of this victimization by intimate partners is against women.

In homes where domestic violence occurs, children are 1,500 times more likely to be victims of abuse.

SUMC’s mission emphasis for January is WATCH, our local treatment and transitional housing program for formerly battered women and their children. The program provides up to three years of counseling,

subsidized housing, and support services to both women and their children.



WATCH works to break the cycle of violence permanently by helping families develop non-violent lifestyles, attain economic self-sufficiency, and achieve psychological well-being. WATCH serves all of Santa Clara County.

Recently WATCH merged with Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence which operates emergency shelters, a crisis hotline, counseling, and legal intervention for 11,000 clients.