



May 2004

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

SUMC Hosts May Community Breakfast

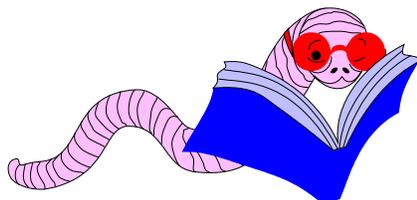
Vision Literacy Makes a Difference in Milpitas

Sunday—May 2nd—7:00 a.m.



Sunnyhills UMC hosts the Sunnyhills Community Breakfast on May 2nd. This is a chance to meet local politicians, movers, and shakers, and enjoy a great breakfast while learning a bit about issues and organizations in our community. Gwen and Jack Freeman are coordinating the breakfast (yum!). Daislyn Pease, a volunteer reading tutor with Vision Literacy (administered by the Milpitas Public Library) is organizing the program. Plan to help out, enjoy a great breakfast, and learn more about a vital community service.

Set your alarm and enjoy a great morning with friends and family. Gwen, Jack, and Daislyn could use a helping hand or two, and there will be plenty of visitors to welcome to our facility. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors. Please plan on joining us for this special event—You'll be glad you did!



Vision Literacy

Empowering Adults Through Reading

Ninety million adults (that's 90,000,000!) adults in our country cannot read or write well enough to follow directions on a medicine bottle, fill out a check, or apply for a job. Here in Silicon Valley, the technological heart of the U.S., 25% of all English-speaking adults read below the ninth-grade level. Low literacy levels impact each one of us.

Vision Literacy, a program of the Santa Clara County Libraries, trains volunteer tutors and matches them with learners to teach reading, writing, and basic math skills in Santa Clara County. Besides this community literacy program for individuals who read or write below the ninth-grade level, Vision Literacy also offers a family literacy program designed to instill the love of reading in both parents and children, a corrections literacy program for men and women in county jails, and literacy services for individuals, including new mothers, dealing with alcohol and drug recovery issues.

Pastor's Letter

Daislyn Pease and I have just returned from a week in sunny Mexico. This was not a Margaritaville vacation. We camped in a quarry (think gravel parking lot!), showered out of plastic bags, and in four days, with an incredible team of 18 other hard-working folks from Tijuana, Los Altos UMC, and San Diego, we built a new home for Ramundo. Ramundo is a factory worker, eagerly awaiting the day when he can bring his wife and extended family up from the South to occupy their new home. He is also a youth counselor at his church. On Thursday, when we "presented" Ramundo his new home, he was joined by his local family: his pastor and almost 20 brothers and sisters in Christ from his church. Together we rejoiced that we all serve the Risen Lord in the varied and diverse ways that we are each called.



I've been involved in the building of six of these homes in the last eight years: they keep getting better and better. We'll go again next year during the third week of April. Don't let lack of skills keep you from this mission if you feel you are called! Our oldest builder on this trip was in his late 70's, the youngest only eight. Some of us had never swung a hammer, some of us were construction workers. Over the course of the mission, each person's gifts and graces were used and stretched.

I'll be involved in a different sort of mission the first two weeks of August, accompanying District Superintendent Nymphas Edwards to Jamaica on a Volunteers in Mission trip. The project will include a Vacation Bible School, painting and light repairs on the parsonage and church, and a cultural tour of Jamaica. Sound interesting? This Mission work project is still looking for a few good volunteers. For more information, call Rev. Greg Bergquist at the Los Altos UMC (650/948-1083).

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on April 27th, and will continue through May 7th. This is the governing body of our denomination and is charged with the authority to make and change our church law. Keep this group in prayer during this time as they wrestle with many important issues facing our denomination. It is my hope and prayer that, in the words of our founder John Wesley (who was probably quoting someone else), we remain a denomination where diversity is honored: In Essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, love.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley



Being in Mission at Annual Conference

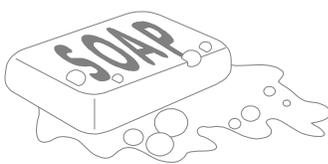
Annual Conference is an opportunity for local churches working together to help others. We participate in mission by giving money used to fund mission programs and by collecting items to help those individuals and families who have been through tragedy brought by natural or military disaster. Our Annual Conference Session offering this year will be shared between an international need and a domestic program:

(1) The Social Program with Children (P.O.S.O.C.A) is a ministry in Luanda, West Angola, which provides vocational and academic training for students. It is a priority of the Methodist Church of the West Angola Conference, a sister conference of our own California Nevada Conference. The program's main focus is aiding children between the ages of 14 and 17, many of whom are street children. Most have also, in some way, been impacted by the 25-year war that ended in 2002. The school offers two sets of classes to a total of 100 students. There are classes in carpentry, shoe repair, computer skills and sewing, among others. The West Angola conference wants to expand the Social Program with Children to several sites throughout the city of Luanda.

(2) The soon-to-open University of California at Merced will also receive part of the Annual Conference offering. The new UC Merced will include a United Methodist presence when it opens its doors to students. A Campus Ministry including dorm facilities for students will be supported through financial gifts from the Annual Conference Session offering.

Pastor Shirley and Lay Member Guy K. Haas will take our gift to the AC session June 16th. Our June Special Offering will be the SUMC gift to these Annual Conference missions. Please bring your donation to worship and place it in the Special Offering Basket, or mark your check "Annual Conference" and mail it to the church office.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission are requesting delegates to bring items for a Health Kit that will be sent to UMCOR. The items must be as described or they will not be used in the Health Kit. Sunnyhills will collect these items each Sunday between now and June 13. They will be taken to Annual Conference on our behalf by Guy Haas and Cathy Deppe, our Conference Lay Member and Alternate



- Hand Towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27")
- Washcloth
- Comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size)
- Nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- Bath size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)

- Toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrappers)
- Large tube of toothpaste (expiration date must be six months or greater)
- Adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- One-gallon plastic bags

