

July 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.gbmg-umc.org/sunnyhills

World Hymnfest and Ice Cream Social

Make a Joyful Noise!

Sunday—July 25th—6:30-9:00 p.m.



Yum! Make your own ice cream sundae, then help us raise the roof singing hymns and songs from around the world! Gwen Freeman swings on piano and Pastor Shirley raises the roof with guitar as we belt out old favorites from hither, yon, and elsewhere. See Gwen on Sunday mornings or call her with your special requests (408/263-8942).



Children are welcome to sing and enjoy the music with adults, or they may play in the nursery with our childcare provider.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy a wonderful evening of music, song, and dessert!

Let's Talk Parables

Adult and Youth Drop-In Class

6 Sundays—July 11-August 15—Meets after Worship

We all know that Jesus taught in parables. Jesus' parables are much loved by Christians and other seekers around the world. But did you know that parables were not new with Jesus? Parables were a time-honored tradition as a means of teaching. There are parables in the Old Testament. Helping students recognize the truth though the telling of stories was a favorite method of ancient teachers.



Daislyn Pease will lead an adult discussion group on parables for six weeks starting July 11th. Meet in the sanctuary after worship and social time, approximately 11:00 a.m. Childcare provided.

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Pastor's Letter

Guy Haas, Cathy Deppe, and I have just returned from Annual Conference, the annual meeting of all our clergy and lay members selected to represent their local churches in decision-making that affects our churches in the California-Nevada Conference. We were in Fresno this year and met for four days, instead of the usual five—both location and duration decisions were part of cost-saving plans. Our conference theme, "Rekindle the Gift of God," showed up in worship, art, music, preaching, and presentation. Taken from I Timothy 1:3-7, this challenge—rekindle the gift of God—started somewhat gently as though we were being invited to remember our baptism. As Conference continued, the challenge became more intense. It would be hard, I think, to miss Bishop Shamana's intent in choosing this particular theme, whether one put words around it or not: unless we as individuals, churches, and a Conference return to a strong spiritual centering, our membership, finances, and strengths will continue to dwindle.



Rekindling God's gifts—recognizing a spiritual center and acting out of that center—does not belong ideologically to the right or the left. It is a unifying theme, a theme that pulls us away from some of the divisive policies of church life. Rekindling the gifts of God doesn't require program that is too expensive for small churches, awkward for large churches, or too micromanaging for the freewheeling types. It does require us to read and talk, think and pray, individually, in groups, as church. How is it that the fire of our early faith can be rekindled? What did that feel like and what did we do with it? Are we willing to respond to God in that way again?

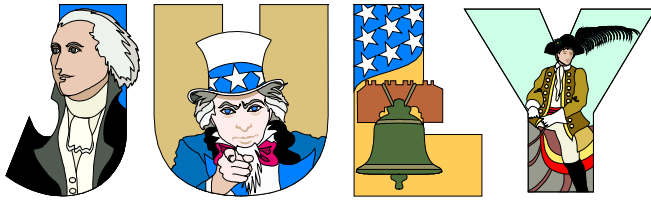
After all, one of our worship services implied, John Wesley had a suggestion for spiritual growth: *Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn.* And, of course, once you gather a crowd—get their names and invite them back!

Pray with me that we may rekindle God's gifts in our Sunnyhills United Methodist Church.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley



Gwen and Jack Freeman celebrate the birth of Allison Rose Anderson on June 17, 2004. Grandparents are grinning from ear to ear. She is a true Milpitas resident—second generation on her mother's side (Stacey) and third generation on her father's side (Brian)! Our very best wishes to little Allison Rose, proud parents, and prouder grandparents!



Calendar Notes



WRAP (Administrative Council) *Sunday, July 11th After Sunday Celebration*

Everyone in the church community is encouraged to attend. Your comments, your ideas, your presence, and your energy will help craft the program and mission best suited to SUMC. (No potluck this month.)

Let's Talk Parables *July 11-August 15 11:00-11:45 a.m.*

Adult and youth class meets after worship in the sanctuary. Come when you're in town. Childcare provided for children waiting for parents. See page 1.



Summer Sunday School

*July 11-August 15
10:15 a.m. (after Children's Sermon)
until 11:15 a.m.*

Calling all kids! Students in first through eighth grades will join together for crafts, singing, and lessons in our one-room Summer Sunday School. Be sure to join in this special summer experience! (Childcare provided for children below first grade.)

Hymnfest and Ice Cream Social

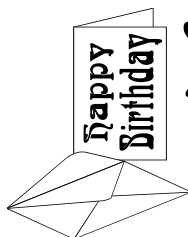
Sunday, July 25th, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Make-your-own sundaes and songs from around the world. See page 1.

Lunch Bunch

Sunday, August 1st

Lunch and conversation for all. Join us at Fresh Choice in the Great Mall after Sunday worship and get to know your fellow SUMCers a bit better.



Birthdays this Month

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

7/5 Shirely Macemon 7/6 Alex Rovere
7/10 Cliveden Chew Haas

Happy Anniversary!

7/8 Cliveden & Guy Haas 7/16 Vennie & Herbert Holloway
7/26 Cathy Deppe & Alex Walker

Let's Talk Parables

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We're making you an offer you can't refuse! No advance reading and no need to buy a study book. Just come after service, bring your Bible or borrow one of ours, and come ready to read the parable and participate in lively discussion.

Better yet, let Daislyn know what parables you would like to discuss and she'll get them covered if at all possible. If you don't know the Bible verse, that's quite all right. Just tell her the story or the name of the parable.

Come kindle the spirit of Jesus within you by attending these classes.

Income and Expenses

April-May 2004

INCOME

| | Apr | May | Total |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Offerings | \$3,422 | \$4,270 | \$7,692 |
| Bldg. Use, etc. | 5,629 | 6,344 | 11,973 |
| Special Giving | 227 | 526 | 753 |
| Total | \$9,278 | \$11,140 | \$20,418 |

EXPENSES

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Mission&Outreach | \$1,001 | \$ 824 | \$1,825 |
| Operating Exp. | 2,913 | 2,617 | 5,530 |
| Pastor & Staff | 4,645 | 5,605 | 10,250 |
| Total | \$8,559 | \$9,046 | \$17,604 |

Cash on Hand \$37,461 \$39,556

Designated funds 36,659 37,072

Cash available \$ 802 \$2,484



Summer Choir

Looking for a Few Good Voices

During the summer the choir gathers informally around the piano on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and rehearses the morning's anthem. If you have an urge to sing, here is your opportunity to join in. Come by any Sunday and lift up your voice in song!

Also, if you would like to provide special music (singing or instrumental) for our services during the summer, please call Gwen Freeman (408/ 263-8942).

Western Jurisdictional Conference Meets in San Jose

Our Western Jurisdictional Conference (western U.S.) of the United Methodist Church meets every four years, a few months after the General Conference. This year, it meets July 14-17 at the Doubletree Inn near the San Jose Airport.

This is the body which elects bishops for the UMC, and two will be elected in 2004. A service of consecration for the new bishops is planned for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 17th, at Los Altos UMC. Further details about the Jurisdictional Conference can be found at the Conference Secretary's website at <http://www.marysvilleumc.org/wjc/>