

August 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.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Sunnyhills UMC

Children and Youth Ministry

**“Teach children how they should live,
and they will remember it all their life.”**

—Proverbs 22:6



The opening of School Year 2004-2005 is upon us. This is the time when we, as parents, are reminded that our children have moved up to another stage of their life. Our children will learn new tasks, meet new teachers, friends, and classmates, experience new challenges, and discover many new things that the world has to offer them. May we, as ministers of the Word of God, continue to teach them, to show them, to tell them, what God can truly do in their lives. Our church is a significant arena for our children to learn to become disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and offers the opportunity for our children to discover the love of God in their childhood, which only happens once in their lives. Let us not miss the opportunities that God continues to offer to our children through the Children and Youth Ministry program of Sunnyhills UMC.

Below is a summary of our Program of activities for our children and youth for the 2004-05 school year. Our Children and Youth Team members this year are Aida Cruz, Anne Zeise, Cliveden Chew Haas, Laine Sazon (chair), and Pastor Shirley. Please talk to any of our team members and share your ideas to enrich the programs of the Sunnyhills UMC Children and Youth Ministry.

SUMC Children and Youth Ministry Upcoming Activities

Sunday, September 12th
Sunday, September 19th
November 2004
December 2004
February 22-25
April 2005
June 2005
June-August 2005
August 2005

Sunday School Kickoff
Christian Education Sunday
Trip to Heifer Project International
Caroling and Christmas Programs
SUMC Winter Vacation Bible School
Bishop's Confirmation Retreat
Church School Year End BBQ Sunday
Summer Sunday School
Trip to Raging Waters



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Depending on this month's Beacon production schedule and the mail, by the time some of you read this, I'll be in Jamaica for a two week mission trip. Rev. Nymphas Edwards, our San Jose District Superintendent, and Rev. Greg Bergquist, Executive Pastor of Los Altos UMC, are leading this trip that involves a Vacation Bible School in two churches, repair and painting in a parsonage, and meeting and getting to know Jamaican Methodists in several coastal towns. A generous gift from the church approved by WRAP has helped to underwrite my expenses, and the mission offering taken on July 25th helps to defray project expenses. Thank you all for your support and encouragement in this project!



We will be working in Frankfield, a small town in the center of Jamaica. The Methodist pastor there is appointed to the Frankfield circuit, which is composed of three churches: Christchurch, Desire, and Unity. I've been asked to be "preacher of the day" at one of these churches. So while you've got a guest preacher here, I'll be guest preacher there—but in only one of the churches! Because customs are different in Jamaica, especially in churches, I'll have to be a little more formally attired when I preach there. You'll get to see the "new look" when I return.

While I am gone, Rev. Ricky Perry, the pastor of Genesis UMC, is on call for pastoral care needs. He can be reached through the Genesis office: 408/213-2484. I've worked with Rev. Ricky during the two years we've both been in Milpitas and I know you are in good hands should you need his care.

As some of you know, we've been in discussion with Father Efren, pastor of Santa Maria Episcopal Church, the Hispanic congregation that meets here, about their congregation meeting in the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. We've come to an informal agreement, soon to be followed by a contract and rental agreement. Father Efren's congregation has been growing steadily, has an active youth program and has been running a school on campus this summer. Santa Maria has also been financially generous in helping with our painting and new lights. I hope you will join me in welcoming Father Efren and Santa Maria's members into the "other" side of the campus on those few days you might be here later on Sunday.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley

Last Day of Summer Sunday School is August 15th!

Many thanks to Ann Zeise for her generous and creative leadership of the summer Sunday School over the last six weeks, and to Laine Sazon, who led the first two crafts classes in June. God has truly blessed our congregation with loving and talented teachers!





Calendar Notes

WRAP (Administrative Council)

*Saturday, August 21st
9:00 a.m.*

PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME!

Everyone in the church community is encouraged to attend. Our discussions this month will include the question of funding repair work on our buildings. Your comments, your ideas, your presence, and your energy will help craft the program and mission best suited to SUMC.

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.

Board of Trustees

*Sunday, August 22nd
12:00 noon*

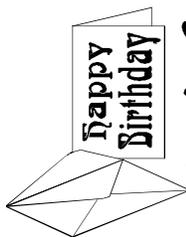
PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME!

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the buildings and property of the church. All Trustees, please plan to attend as we consider the many issues needing our attention.

Summer Sunday School

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

Calling all kids! Drop-ins welcome—come enjoy a great lesson and other activities. Last class meets August 15th—See ya' there!



Birthdays this Month

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

8/16 Thelma Wilber

8/30 Eric Valderrama

Happy Anniversary!

Send a card to old friends!

8/14 Joyce & Terry Johnson

8/22 Malacha & Robert Martin

(Martin's new address: 15589 Wards Ferry Road, Sonora CA 95370, 209/962-7516)



Summer Choir Is Looking for a Few Voices

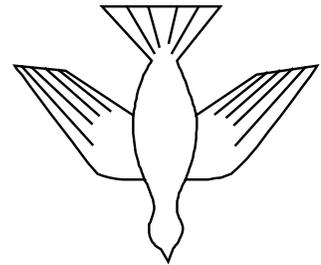
During the summer the choir gathers informally around the piano on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and rehearses the morning's anthem. If you have an urge to sing, here is your opportunity to join in. Come by any Sunday and lift up your voice in song!

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).

Praise God for Wonderful Volunteers!

Guy Haas, along with Father Efren and several youth of Santa Maria Virgen Episcopal Church, spent hours trimming shrubbery and pruning trees in preparation for the tenting (termite treatment) of our parsonage. Thank you!

Bob and Jo Roll have been busy around our grounds, quietly cleaning, scraping, and generally keeping us neat. Thank you!

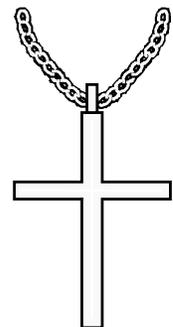


363 Fund: Remember the Hungry

Many gifts for the hungry arrive in food pantries and shelters for the Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays. Here at Sunnyhills we also have our 363 Fund, which helps us remember the hungry in our local community the other 363 days of the year. Look for the small red can labeled "363" as you come in the door and drop in your donations. Or, you can always label your gift "363" and place it in the offering plate. All monies collected support the Milpitas Food Pantry and the San Jose Family Shelter.

Beyond Acceptance Conference

First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto is sponsoring a special conference on "Beyond Acceptance" September 24-26, 2004, supporting church organizations and individuals working toward a more inclusive society. The Rev. Mel White, renowned speaker and founder of Soulforce, will be the keynote speaker leading us to imagine a future "beyond the acceptance" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals toward full inclusion. The conference will include workshops on marriage equality, theological inquiry, parenting and family issues, transgender issues, a musical celebration, and more. Information: www.firstpaloalto.com



Who is my neighbor?

In a time of global interdependence, it is not sufficient for Christians to care and to pray only for one's own group or nation. The Pharisees asked the question, "Who is my neighbor?" (in reality asking about the borders of commitment). Commitments to care for those only within one's own culture, or borders, or religion were strictly refused by Jesus with the story of the Samaritan. So we have to pray most for the international community even above our national welfare, search for peace and welfare for all.

Rev. Dr. Ulrich Meisel of the Eastern European UMC Conference quoted in Summer 2004 Perspectives

Where is the next generation?

- † More than 26% of the population is between 12 and 30 years old.
- † Less than 10% of those attending U.M. churches are 12 to 30 years old.
- † The largest percentage of U.M. churchgoers is 70 to 79 years old.

The Grinch meets the gospel

On the heels of the *Cat in the Hat* movie comes James W. Kemp's *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Snitches, Sneeches, and other Creachas* [Judson Press, 800/458-3766]

Kemp, a retired UM pastor, cites Dr. Seuss as his favorite theologian. It might seem an odd choice until you read the parallels Kemp draws between 1 Peter and *Horton Hatches the Egg* (staying faithful despite persecution), the prophet Ezekiel and *Green Eggs and Ham* (persistence in the face of opposition), and Zacchaeus and the Grinch (learning to love even the most unlovable among us).

"The United Nations In Our Daily Lives"

Theme of June 2004 Response Magazine

To obtain a copy of the June 2004 Response Magazine (published by the United Methodist Women's Division), contact: Magazine Circulation, P.O. Box 548, Newburgh, NY 12551-0548. Single copy is \$1.75.

Recent Headlines

"United Methodist Bishops Seek Greater UN Role in Resolving Iraq War"

"United Methodists Continue to Pray and Advocate for Peace in the Middle East"

"In a Time of International Concern What's Going On and What Can I Do About It?"

Perspectives is our UMC newsletter on the United Nations, International Justice, Human Rights, and Peace. The next issue focus on Migrant Workers: Re-rooting the Uprooted. The newsletter is available at www.umc-gbcs.org/links/Links.php?category=GBGS, in print, and via e-mail.

