

**October 2004**

# The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

**Pastor Shirley Macemon**

**Church Office**

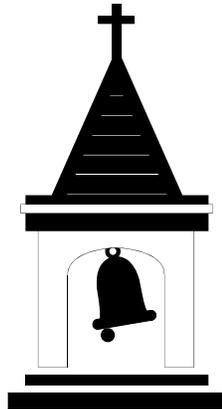
**(408) 262-1486**

*Visit us on the Web!*

[www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills)

## Welcome Dinner Bishop' Shamana Visits *Tuesday—October 26th*

District Superintendent Nymphas Edwards personally invites all members of the Sunnyhills UMC to be his guests at the Outward Bound Welcome Dinner, Tuesday, October 26th, at Campbell UMC. The occasion for this dinner is a visit by Bishop Beverly Shamana and the members of the Cabinet and Ministry Staff of the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist church.



These dinners, being held in our district and others, give the Bishop and Cabinet an opportunity to get to know members and leaders of our local churches in a more personal way. It also enables the Bishop and her Cabinet and staff to hear and see some of the mission and ministry being done in our area, and to share with our folks some of the goals and objectives of the Annual Conference.

Reservations for this dinner must be made by calling the Sunnyhills church office by October 14th.

## Trustees Need Your Prayers

Please remember the Board of Trustees (Chairman Rolf Haas, Secretary Cliveden Chew Haas, Jun Cruz, Laurie Haas, Herb Holloway, Billy Jefferson, Emil Sazon, plus generous helpers Gwen Freeman and Pastor Shirley) as they wrestle with issues concerning our grounds and buildings. Recent concerns include termite extermination and repairs at the parsonage, a leak in our sanctuary floor, and the huge project of replacing damaged fascia and posts around our buildings.

## Blessing of the Animals

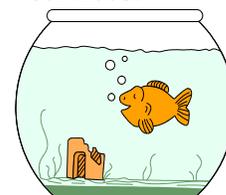
**Fins, Fur,  
Feathers, Etc.**

*Sunday—October 3rd—  
11:30 a.m.*

Dogs, cats, hamsters, fish, horses, iguanas, and others (plus their attendant owners and loved ones) are invited to the Blessing of the Animals held on the lawn, Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. Father David Pace of St. Joseph the Worker Episcopal Church and Pastor Shirley will conduct a short service and then bless each animal individually.



Pets (properly confined) and their families are welcome at Sunday services.



## Pastor's Letter



Two weeks ago, while I was in Oklahoma for my nephew's wedding, I heard on the news that Hurricane Ivan had made a damaging stop on the island nation of Jamaica before heading toward the U.S. For seven long days I tried to get in touch with the young people I work with in Frankfield while I was in Jamaica on mission this summer.

First there simply were no telephone circuits to the island. Then the circuits were busy. Then the cell towers were overloaded. Finally, I got through to one cell phone's voice mail and left a message. And another message, and another message. A full week after I began calling, Sheldon called me. Frankfield and Desire, the community where Sheldon lives, were hard hit, but they came through. One family lost their roof, but have a temporary one in place. Crops have been lost but not lives.

I was amazed at how upbeat Sheldon and the others I spoke to that morning were. Of course it had been a bad storm. But important things—family and friends—were safe. And it was time to help others in the community put their homes and lives back together. These young people weren't waiting for a committee meeting, for "someone" to get a program started, for relief workers from somewhere else to arrive with money or supplies. That morning they were on their way down to the parsonage to find out "what was up" and how they could help. Because, as Sheldon said, that's what Jesus calls them to do.

Is it really that easy? See a need that touches our members or the community, get together a group of folks who have the same passion, and do something about it? I can't say that is easy—but it is doable. Great mission has started with a few folks and a passion.

Let me know your passion and who's with you. I'll see how I can help.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Shirley*

### Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. with a brief warm-up and rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We have a lot of fun and enjoy sharing our music with the congregation in worship. Everyone is welcome—no special talents needed—just a love of music and a desire to sing with others.



### Lunch Bunch

*Sunday—October 17th*  
*Casa Azteca*

**YUM!**

Mark your calendar and plan to join the SUMC group for good food, good friends, and good fellowship.

## Camping With Sunnyhills UMC

Join Sunnyhills members and friends for camping near Manresa Beach State Park on Saturday, October 9th. It will be a fun time for kids and adults, but make your reservations soon by calling Santa Cruz KOA directly. The camp sites are filling up quickly.

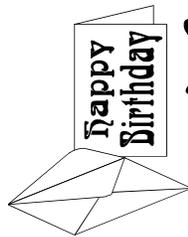


Erik Larsen and Jennifer Touchton and family will be heading to the campground on Saturday morning. Join the crew for lunch at 12:00 noon at their campsite. Bring your own brown bag lunch, or meet church members at the edge of the swimming pool at 2:00 p.m. If you are inclined to head to the beach nearby or just want to stop by for a day trip, meet up at the Larsen and Touchton campsite at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner (hot dogs, buns, and fixings will be provided). Of course, there will be a campfire for roasting marshmallows in the evening.

The cabins at the KOA site are already reserved. Tent and RV camping sites are still available. Bring your own camping gear, food, lawn chairs, and other stuff. Bring your own breakfast and lunch materials. Saturday dinner is a potluck, but bring chairs with you!

This should be a great way to get to know some of your fellow church members. The swimming pool and nearby beach are a guaranteed hit with the kids! For more information call Erik Larsen at (408) 946-7335 or e-mail ErikLarsen67@cs.com.

Santa Cruz KOA is located near Watsonville, California. Reservations are accepted; \$49.95-59.95 per two adult campers per night, \$2 each child and \$6 each additional adult. Contact Santa Cruz KOA, (831) 722-0551, or fax (831) 722-0989. On a scenic scale of one to ten (ten being the best), this campground is rated an eight by *Camping California*. Directions: From Santa Cruz, drive 12 miles southeast on Highway 1. Take the San Andreas exit and head southwest for 3.5 miles to 1186 San Andreas Road.



**Birthdays  
this  
Month**

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

10/7 Herb Holloway  
10/31 Aida Cruz

10/16 Anita Valderrama

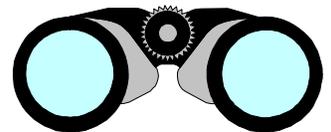
## Looking Ahead

**Saturday, November 6th**  
WRAP meets at 9:00 a.m.

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WRAP meets at 9:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 24th**  
Christmas Eve service

**Sunday, December 12th**  
Christmas Around the World  
Contact Gwen Freeman with  
your favorite Christmas  
songs



**Sunday, December 19th**  
Caroling to shut-ins and soup supper after