



Jan/Feb 2005

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

SUMC Charge Conference

Sunday—January 30th—11:30 a.m.

District Superintendent Nymphas Edwards, Presiding

The last Sunday in January marks an important date in the life of our church and also in the life our pastor as she moves toward full ordination in the larger United Methodist Church. Please plan to attend!

The morning begins with worship at 9:30 a.m. San Jose District Superintendent Nymphas Edwards will be among our guests and we will also be videotaping the service for Pastor Shirley. The UMC ordination process includes several years of meetings, examinations, and interviews overseen by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Candidates this year will submit a sermon videotape as part of their presentation. This is the third year of candidacy for Pastor Shirley and we hope the subcommittee will be recommending her for ordination as an elder later this year.

After the celebration of worship, our District Superintendent will meet briefly with our Staff-Parish Relations committee while the congregation enjoys fellowship and a light luncheon in Jones Hall. The Charge Conference will start at about 11:30 a.m., presided over by the D.S. This important business meeting includes setting pastoral compensation and electing church officers for 2005. We will also review our accomplishments in 2004 and our hopes for 2005.



In God's House

Winter Vacation Bible School

Tuesday through Friday—February 22-25, 2005

9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Liven up your winter! During the February school break, our own Children and Youth Ministries team is offering a four-day winter vacation Bible school. Activities include singing, story-telling, games, art projects, snacks, and more. Our theme is "In God's House," centering around the Temple in Jerusalem and God's presence in the life of God's people.

Children pre-school through 8th grade are invited to join us. Friends are certainly welcome. Please be sure to pre-register all students so the planning team can prepare adequate materials and supplies for the activities. Volunteers are needed, too. Can you help out? Please call Laine Sazon (408/410-2784) or Cliveden Chew Haas (408/262-5250) for more information.

Pastor's Letter

I don't know about you, but the New Year didn't pad in on little soft feet this year. It appeared at my front door full grown without anything I could do about it. No easing into 2005 in my household—just *thunk*, and here we are. That brief moment of repose—a day or so—I often feel between the wonder of Christmas and resuming the regular (and busy!) schedule of the rest of the year was swallowed up as we followed world news of the tsunami and its after-effects, with significant changes in the lives of several congregation members, and on a personal level an upper respiratory infection that just won't go away, and the realization that my daughter, Rebecca, turns 18 on January 17th.



Looking back over the past couple of weeks, I am coming to believe that the "brief moment of repose" I thought I've had in past years is probably a figment of my memory's imagination. No matter what time of year, each day holds ups and downs, joys and concerns, opportunities for engagement and opportunities for withdrawal. Every day holds the opportunity for a brief moment of repose. For me, that brief moment is a time to refocus on priorities, to re-center myself, and yes, to pray. If I wait for the calendar to tell me when I can take time for that experience, I am missing everyday opportunities.

So, for this new year that has *thunked* into my life, I'm resolving to take the opportunity to use these brief moments as they come my way—to focus, center, and spend time with God. I'll take a day when I can, but I won't wait for the calendar. I invite you to join me in using the brief moments in your life as a time to connect with God, too.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Shirley

2005 Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday—March 20th
Worship Celebration: 9:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday—March 27th
Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m. on the lawn
followed by Finger Food Potluck Breakfast

Easter Celebration! 9:30 a.m.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt immediately following Benediction



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Lunch Bunch

Sunday, January 23rd (Yan Can)
Sunday, February 13th (La Milpa)

Members and friends of Sunnyhills UMC enjoy an informal lunch together after worship and Sunday school. Select and pay for your own meal at one of our many fine area restaurants and join in the lively conversation as we get to know one another a little better. Everyone is welcome, of course—no reservations required.

WRAP

(Administrative Council)

Saturday, February 12th
9:00 a.m.

Please note earlier time. Held in the front room of Jones Hall. Everyone is welcome to help as we craft the program and mission for Sunnyhills UMC.

Tsunami Relief Fund Raiser

Thursday
January 27th
Sanctuary and Church Grounds



Santa Maria Virgen, the Episcopal church which holds services in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoons, is holding a fund raiser for tsunami relief. Food booths and other activities will be available. Please feel free to come by the church campus and join in the festivities.

Also, please note that on January 27th the SUMC choir will meet at Gwen and Jack Freeman's, 271 North Temple Drive, Milpitas. Phone 408/263-8942 or 499-1921 for more information.

Income and Expenses

October-November-December 2004

	INCOME				
	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	
Offerings	\$ 2,951	\$2,150	\$3,393	\$ 8,493	
Building Use, etc.	9,494	4,753	2,256	16,503	
Special Giving	565	163	511	1,269	
TOTAL	\$13,040	\$7,066	\$6,160	\$26,265	
	EXPENSES				
Mission&Outreach	\$ 824	\$ 829	\$1,531	\$ 3,184	
Operating Expenses	4,718	3,304	3,355	11,377	
Pastor & Staff	3,618	3,901	5,426	12,946	
TOTAL	\$9,160	\$8,034	\$20,312	\$27,506	
Cash on hand				\$37,089	
Designated funds				\$37,249	



The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities.

submitted by Daislyn

**A Very
Happy Birthday!
To**



**Best Wishes for
a Wonderful
Anniversary!**

1/10	Don Egbert	1/20	Julia Jones	1/19	Anita & Rueben Valderrama
1/16	Vennie Holloway	1/22	Laurie Haas		
1/17	Eugenia Allen-Egbert	1/23	Guy Haas		
1/17	Rebecca Marcus				

Feeding the Hungry In Our Community 363 Fund

The 363 Fund, our on-going collection for hungry members of the local community, raised \$591 during 2004. Monies are split between the San Jose Family Shelter and the Milpitas Food Pantry.

Thanksgiving and Christmas always include plenty of emphasis on feeding the hungry. Our SUMC 363 Fund raises money for food the other 363 days of the year.

Look for the Fund can near the Sanctuary door (a good place to dump your spare change!) or mark your check "363 Fund" and place in the offering basket. Help us help others.



Askings and Apportionments 101% Giving

SUMC paid 101% of Askings and Apportionments in 2004. These are the funds requested by the larger United Methodist Church to fund mission projects of all kinds, both here at home and around the world.

Mission comes in all sizes, from a one-teacher school house in Ghana to colleges in Zimbabwe, Japan, and the United States, from soup kitchens in the inner city to new church buildings in many areas.

For more information, visit <http://gbgm-umc.org/> (General Board of Global Ministries), <http://www.cnumc.org/> (California-Nevada Annual Conference), and <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/sjdist/> (San Jose District). And don't forget Women's Division! About 1/3 of the money spent for mission in the United Methodist Church is raised through United Methodist Women, which organizes and funds many, many excellent projects. Check out their work at <http://gbgm-umc.org/Womens-division/index2.html>

Many people want to serve God, but only as advisers.



Changing Lives One House at a Time Mexico Mission 2005

This spring, April 16-23, 2005, 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 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. The abilities to laugh, and get to know people, to build community and encourage others are just as critical for the team. There is important work appropriate for children and their grandparents and everyone in between. Construction skills 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 may be collecting items for welcoming baskets for the homeowners, and will take a monetary offering 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 on the WEB at: <http://www.laumc.org/ministries/outreach/mexico/index.html>. Or call the office and we'll put it in the mail to you. Because Sunnyhills underwrites a portion of each participant's fees, the cost for adults is \$400, for children under 10 is \$250, which includes our hotel stays in San Diego. Don't let money stand in your way: 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 30th 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!

Prayer Request

*Illness is forcing Irene and Billy Jefferson to move to a new residence. Billy has already moved, is adjusting, and being well taken care of. He continues to receive dialysis treatment for failing kidneys. Irene is in a rehab center recovering from a minor stroke and hopes to be released soon to join Billy. Keep them in your prayers, and they would enjoy hearing from you. All mail can go to the new address:
Irene and Billy Jefferson, 1538 Hillsdale Ave., San Jose CA 95118*

