

March 2005

The Beacon

**Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035
Pastor Shirley Macemon**

Church Office

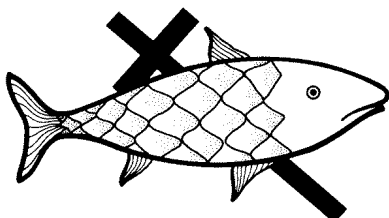
(408) 262-1486

Visit us on the Web!

www.gbgm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Where Do We Find God In and After Tragedy? Lenten Soup and Services

As we continue our journey through Lent, I invite each of you to the Wednesday evening Lenten services, held in conjunction with the congregation of St. Joseph Episcopal Church. Enjoy a light supper and stay for a thought-provoking message and worship.



*Wednesdays: March 2, 9, and 16
6:30 p.m. in the back of Jones Hall*

March 2: Rev. Shirley Macemon, speaking
March 9: Rev. Efren Garza, speaking
March 16: (to be decided)

Confirmation Classes Start March 13th Come to the Organizational Meeting on March 6th

Confirmation is the time when young people (grades 6 and up) experience faith building activities and learn about our church and how we worship God and live in God's world. On March 6th 11:15 a.m., we'll have an organizational meeting with youth and parents so that questions can be answered, dates firmed up, and expectations set. Our classes will be Sundays after worship, finished by about 1:00 p.m.

Each of our young people joining the confirmation class will need a mentor from the church to work alongside them during this process. Mentors do not attend the weekly classes but will meet with their confirmand several times during the series to talk about the work we are doing, encourage them and work on particular aspects of the process.

Confirmation Celebration Sunday will be May 15, 2005, which is also Pentecost, an auspicious day for our young people to join the church!

If you are interested in more information about confirmation, please call Pastor Shirley at the church office, 408/262-1486.



Pastor's Letter

As I write this, I am still on a natural “high” from the Vacation Bible School we held at Sunnyhills UMC last week. Twenty children and youth, from 2 to 13 years old, plus almost a dozen adults sang, heard stories, played games, created crafts and art projects, and learned about the love of God in our world. Our local children had the week off from school, and this turned out to be a wonderful outreach project in the neighborhood. Almost half of the young people who came those four mornings are not regular attendees of Sunnyhills, so we met new friends, too. BIG thanks to Laine Sazon, talented and able VBS Director, who together with Cliveden Chew Haas organized the entire week. Heartfelt thanks also to Erik Larsen and Jennifer Touchton, who led singing and told stories, Emil Sazon, who did whatever was needed, including cleaning up each day, Lola Dorsey, who helped immensely with art, Nicole Bleau and Leah Marcus, who assisted in the classes, and all the families who brought snacks and did things of which I’m unaware!



Spending the week with your children sent me to the website to find out about summer camps—look elsewhere in the *Beacon* to see what that research turned up.

With VBS behind us, I’m ready to begin a Confirmation Class with any of our young people who are in the sixth grade or higher. Confirmation Class will give our young people faith-building experiences and information that will allow them to decide if it time to become a professing member of the United Methodist Church.

Along with so many others, I lost a good friend this month. Mary Parker-Eves, pastor of Alum Rock UMC, died suddenly on February 5th. We celebrated her life on February 12th in a service held at the Alum Rock church. It may sound tired and trite, but—don’t put off telling those around you how you feel about them: how much you appreciate them, that you love them, that you have learned so much from them and that they have made a significant difference in your life. Mary was a good friend to Sunnyhills UMC in the time when there was talk of closing the church, and she was a good friend to me since the time I was in seminary and worked with her as an intern. The hole that is the place that Mary filled is slowly filling with wonderful memories and learnings.

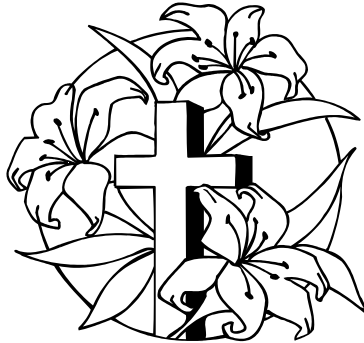
As we walk down these last few weeks of Lent toward Easter, don’t hesitate to talk to God about what is on your mind and being. Liturgically, Lent is a time of meditation and waiting. Some churches put away all their music that sings praise, cover all their crosses with drapings, and are very intentional about their attitude during Lent. I’m a little more casual in my approach, but I urge you to enter in to the chance to renew your heart and spirit through meditation and prayer during this time. Talk to God, write your prayers, sing your prayers, walk your prayers, dance your prayers. Open your heart and pray.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley



Calendar Notes

**WRAP
(Administrative
Council)**
*Saturday, March 12th
8:30 a.m.*



Dates to Remember
Easter Sunday, March 27th

Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m.

Easter Potluck Breakfast
(following Sunrise Service)

Easter Worship Celebration, 9:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn
(following worship)

Please note earlier time.
Held in Jones Hall. Coffee/tea/juice and
light repast provided. Everyone is welcome
to help as we craft the program and mission
for Sunnyhills UMC.

Sunnyhills Community Breakfast *Sunday, March 6th, 7:00 a.m., in Jones Hall*

This month the breakfast is being sponsored by the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association. Expect a recap of accomplishments, status of current projects, and a special presentation on Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) by Rob Means. Rob will share SNA's long-term goal of a PRT feeder to the Great Mall transit center—and how to achieve it. All Milpitas residents are invited. Call Herb Holloway at 408/262-2734 for more information.

Marcus Borg Lectures at the Stone Church, Willow Glen **April 1-2, 2005**

Marcus Borg, author of eleven books, including *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* and *The God We Never Knew*, will present lectures on two topics. Friday evening (4/1), Dr. Borg will address "Two Visions of Christianity Today," exploring how Christians and the church in North America are deeply divided by two very different visions of Christianity, including how we see the Bible, tradition, and the Christian life. Dr. Borg will describe these two visions, clarifying the differences and seeking points of commonality.

On Saturday (4/2), Dr. Borg will address "Seeing Jesus Again," summarizing his picture of the historical Jesus.

The cost for the lectures is \$10 for Friday, \$15 for Saturday, or \$20 for both programs. Call the Stone Church at 408/269-1593 to register or for more information.



A Very
Happy Birthday!
To



Best Wishes for
a Wonderful
Anniversary!

3/ 6 Daislyn Pease
3/ 6 Kyler Tanciango

3/14 Ealasaid Haas

3/ 5 Gwen & Jack
Freeman

Support SUMC Missions While You Shop Scrip Update

Question: What is something you do every week, rain or shine?

Answer: Go to the grocery store.

Where do you normally do your grocery shopping?

If it's Savemart or Albertsons, did you realize that you could be making money for Sunnyhills UMC while you shop? You don't even have to spend anything more than you normally would.

Scrip is available for both Savemart and for Albertsons. If you normally buy \$200 per week in groceries, you can earn either 2% or 4%, respectively. Neither one sounds like a huge savings, But, add it up. If you spend your money at Savemart, you could earn Sunnyhills \$4 per week, or \$208 per year. If you shop at Albertsons, your \$200 per week will earn \$8 per week or \$416 per year.

There's more than just grocery stores. You can buy Starbucks scrip through Sunnyhills and earn the church 5%, or \$1.25 for every \$25 you purchase. Scrip is available for Peet's Coffee as well, at 6%.



We can now purchase AMC gold cards, which are available for any movie, at any time (previous scrip was only good for movies which were not first-run). A \$25 gift card earns us 6%. Then there's Borders Books and Barnes and Noble scrip, too. Just let me know you're interested.

If you eat out at Black Angus (12%), the Olive Garden (7%), Chili's (8%), Fresh Choice (9%), or Marie Calendar (15%), there is scrip for them too. Don't forget the fast food scrip: Burger King, Carl's Jr., Baskin Robbins, and Jamba Juice.

If you've got kids, you can get their next birthday presents at Toys R Us. Or, for grown-up kids, there's Home Depot or Blockbuster Video scrip, not to mention the bookstores above.

I'll have an order form inserted into the church bulletins or at the back of the sanctuary starting in March.

Help Sunnyhills UMC the easy way. Call me at 408/262-4236 or catch me in church and I'll place your order. Order one Sunday and you'll have the scrip the next Sunday.

Daislyn Pease

Income and Expenses

January 2005

INCOME:

Offerings	\$4,098
Bldg. Use & Others	6,802
Special Giving	844
Total	\$11,744

EXPENSES:

Mission & Outreach	\$1,199
Operating Expenses	2,608
Pastor & Staff Support	3,980
Total	\$7,787

Cash on hand	\$40,996
Designated funds	\$37,584
Cash available	\$3,412

Sunnyhills Neighborhood Drumming Night

Friday, April 1, 5:30 p.m.



Come one, come all! The Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association invites neighbors and friends for an evening of drumming at Al Augustine Park.

If you have a drum, bring it! Other percussion instruments you might like to use are bongos, maracas, tambourines, castanets, bells, etc. Bring what you have and join in! Drum for energy, release, remembering, reunion, and FUN!

United Methodist Conference Camps

Did you know that our California-Nevada Annual Conference holds overnight camps for children and youth of all ages? The office hasn't received printed catalogs of camping opportunities in the office yet, but the new Conference Camping website is fully operational. At <http://www.cnumccamp.org/> you can check on camps and their offerings, dates, and even register.

For second- and third-graders there is a brand-new first-timer's camp this year, four days and three nights of spending time in the woods with new friends, splashing in the pool, hiking, singing, and having fun. For third- through sixth-graders, there are three camping opportunities: Toyon Kids Camp, SuperKid Camp, and Lodestar Kid's Camp. For those in seventh to ninth grades, you will find three more camps described on the website. There are even family camps and retreats for adults! Talk to Pastor Shirley if you have questions about the camp or if you need financial assistance to make your camping dream a reality.