

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.gbkm-umc.org/sunnyhills

January – February 2006

Letter from the Editor



Hello,

It is the beginning of a new year and with it comes many new possibilities, resolutions, advantages for growth and even some changes. As the new Office Manager and editor of the Beacon, I hope that you will work with me to make this a really great year for Sunnyhills U.M.C. The office hours are 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Over the next few months I will be working to straighten up the office and going through some of the files.

I ask that you be patient with me as I learn about you and your church. I will work hard to keep the high standards of the Bulletin and Beacon. On behalf of your church family I want to thank Cliveden for the many hours she spent working on the Beacon and wonderful job she has done. I have some big shoes to fill.

This is your church and I will need you to give me articles and information about what is happening. Cliveden has been writing most of the articles for the Beacon and it is time to give her a break. I can list your events, but you know all the important details, so please send me the articles and information to sunnyhillsumc@gmail.com. If you do not have email you can bring your information into the office on a CD, disc, or typed on a sheet of paper. *Please do not send the information to my home.* **Tuesday, February 21, 2006**, will be the deadline to get articles into the office for the next Beacon. It might be nice to have a short report from the WRAP meetings, the Mission Teams, Trustees and other groups to keep the congregation informed on what is happening.

I would love to meet all of you and I invite you to stop in the office and say hello. Together we can make a difference. Margaret Mead said, *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

God bless you all,

Susan

Susan Ramsey

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Each January, every pastor in the conference – probably every pastor in all of United Methodism – is responsible for generating reports about the life of our church that are sent to the Conference Office. Some of the results of these reports are in turn sent on to the General Boards of various agencies in Nashville to accumulate information on the entire denomination. Although these reports are not exactly the most exciting thing that happens in my life as your Pastor, I wanted to share a couple of things that the Conference will know about us. Things that I am very proud of.



Financially, we ended 2005 in the black. We paid 100% of our apportionments. Apportionments – our portion of the support that keeps mission and ministry of the Conference and National church running. This is the 6th year in a row that we have been at the 100% level. In addition to our apportionments, we sent an additional \$6421 to missions around our local community and around the world. Just to give you a comparison, that is equal to 7% of our annual budget. But those monies aren't taken out of our operating income. With only a few exceptions, our missions giving is above-and-beyond our operating income, given by you to specific projects and needs throughout the year. We responded with more than \$2,000 in Katrina relief, almost \$1,000 in the International Missions Projects that our Sunday School brought to us during Advent, and almost \$1,000 in our ongoing gifts to the Milpitas Food Pantry and San Jose Family Shelter.

Part of the report is about people. We received three young people as confirmands this year, closing the books in 2005 with our membership at 63. Our average worship attendance is 37. Four years ago our average was reported as 27. That is a 37% growth in worship attendance! We report a healthy number of children and youth in Sunday school, adults attending ongoing classes, and leaders involved in the life of the church.

Fully contributing our share of apportionments, our significant mission giving and a continued steady growth in worship attendance are all symptoms. Symptoms that we have the potential to grow and thrive. A local church doesn't need to be a mega-church to be a place of personal transformation, of spiritual formation, and a place where one finds a healing community. It is also doesn't need to be a mega-church to be a place where one finds the love of God expressed in welcome and acceptance, to teach and learn the amazing gift that God has given us in Jesus, and how that gift shapes everything we do with our lives.

Be attentive to your role in the life of Sunnyhills. Is there a ministry you feel pulled toward? Is there a mission you are excited about? Is there a class you'd like to teach or a group you'd like to lead – or be part of? Drop me a note, or call and let's talk.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley

Stewardship of your Congregation!



Fellowship is a time after church where we linger to visit and meet new folks.

We need everyone's assistance to provide the cookies, cake, fruit, crackers & cheese, punch, etc., as well as setup and cleanup. Won't you sign up for a Sunday to bring these goodies or to lend a helping hand?

Don't know how to make coffee? Directions are on the wall in the kitchen. Coffee and paper goods are stored either in the sanctuary kitchen or visual closet. You can talk with Thelma or Jo Roll. *Any suggestions or questions would be welcomed.*



Sexuality, Intimacy & Aging

Creekside Center at Los Altos UMC March 24, 2006
Friday 8:30A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

\$45 - \$55 with CEU's \$30 Seniors \$10 Lunch

To register and for more information call Susan Harlan, Program Manager
at 408-454-5625.

Register by March 13, 2006.

MY SOUL IS A WINDOW

Daislyn Pease

My soul is a window into my inner being. I stand at the window looking out with spirit-filled eyes; surveying God's marvelous grandeur; the purple majesties from the song; the blooms on the roses, the promise of children playing in the playground, their shoes sitting to the side while they run through the sand bare-toed; parents patiently waiting to provide help with their more capable hands, to show the children once again how to tie their shoelaces. And as I watch, I wonder how it is that we do not need shoelaces for our faith.

God's spirit stands on the outside looking in through my window, looking in at my passion, my love of God, my passion for justice, and my rage at the evil men do in God's name. God sees my weaknesses and my strengths, my hopes and my dreams, and comforts me if I fall. It is not always comfortable to be so scrutinized. However, God is my caretaker, watering my soul so it can grow. God is my parent, tying the shoelaces of my faith.

My soul is a window into my inner being. I stand looking out; but God stands looking in.



Promise and Betrayal

March 10, 2006

7:30P.M.

A reading of the long struggle of women to be fully accepted as whole persons.

Be sure to invite family and friends for this special event. Held in the Sanctuary. Refreshments provided.

By: Cathy Deppe and the National Association of Working Women



Game Night

February 10, 2006 6:00P.M.

In the Sanctuary

Everyone of all ages are invited to come join us in this wonderful evening of fun. Bring your favorite game. Pizza will be provided.

A Very
Happy Birthday!
To



Best Wishes for a
Wonderful
Anniversary!

01/01 Emil Sazon
01/16 Vennie Holloway
01/16 Joyce Johnson
01/17 Rebecca Marcus
01/20 Julia Jones
01/22 Laurie Haas
01/23 Guy Haas

02/01 Dorothy Fletcher
02/02 Jess Tanciangco
02/21 Robert Roll
02/23 Sharon Fall
02/23 Robert Wilber

01/19 Anita & Rueben
Valderrama
02/16 Shirley Macemon
02/16 John Marcus
02/14 Jo & Bob Roll
02/14 Susan & Bud
Ramsey

Income and Expenses November-December 2005

INCOME

	<i>NOV</i>	<i>DEC</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Offerings	\$3,164.10	\$3,180.00	\$6,344.10
Bldg. Use, etc.	4,001.69	5,703.15	9,704.84
Special Giving	240.90	1,174.75	1,415.65
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$7,406.69</i>	<i>\$10,057.90</i>	<i>\$17,464.59</i>

EXPENSES

	<i>NOV</i>	<i>DEC</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Mission&Outreach	\$1,241.15	\$1,974.10	\$3,215.25
Operating Exp.	2,612.71	4,555.60	7,168.31
Pastor & Staff	3,861.06	3,732.22	7,593.28
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$7,714.92</i>	<i>\$10,261.92</i>	<i>\$17,976.84</i>

Fund Balances

Cash on hand	\$49,859.13	\$48,733.39
Designated funds	\$40,908.46	\$42,203.46
Cash Available	\$8,950.67	\$6,529.93



Calendar

February

2nd-3rd Office Closed
 2nd-8th Pastor Shirley Vacation
 10 (Fri) 6:00 PM Family Game Night in the Sanctuary
 11 (Sat) 9:00 AM Mission Teams
 21 (Tue) BEACON DEADLINE
 26 (Sun) Noon Lunch Bunch @ China's First Gourmet
(North Milpitas Blvd. near Dixon)

March

1 (Wed) Ash Wednesday
 11 (Sat) 9:00 AM WRAP
 12 (Sun) 6:30 PM Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary
 19 (Sun) Noon Lunch Bunch @ Fresh Choice
(Great Mall)
 21 (Tue) BEACON DEADLINE
 21st-27th Pastor Shirley Vacation

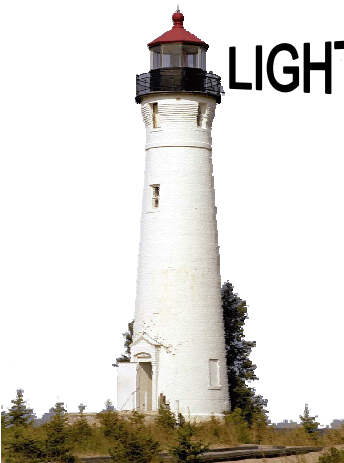
April

8 (Sat) 9:00 AM Ministry Teams
 9 (Sun) Palm Sunday
 16 (Sun) 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service
 (On the lawn between Jones Hall & the Office)
 9:30 AM Easter Celebration in Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn immediately after
 the Easter Service
 18 (Tue) BEACON DEADLINE
 18th - May 4th Pastor Shirley Vacation
 25 (Tue) Office Closed

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LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING