

March 2006

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



Game Night

Our Game Night was a success. Thanks to all those who helped and participated. We had 15 people playing a variety of games: Dominoes, Skip Bo, Rummikub, Trivial Pursuit, Five Crown, and Mouse Trap. And we had more games to play.

WRAP - Saturday, March 11, 2006, in Jones Hall. Be there at 9:00 a.m. Come join in the planning of the special activities of our church. We even had requests to schedule another game night. We will be planning Sunnyhills UMC hosting the Community Breakfast on May 7, 2006.



Hymn Sing / Finger food potluck - Sunday March 12, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Bring your family and join in the fellowship as we sing some of our favorite hymns. It will be a wonderful evening of fun and music. Bring your enthusiasm and a snack to share. Give your favorite hymns to Gwen (gwenffreeman@yahoo.com) or ask for an index card to fill out. Remember this is your chance to try out new hymns and sing your old favorites.



Happy St. Patrick's Day !



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Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

This week I've been thinking about the connections we have – with each other, with our community – that have far-reaching affects that frequently we can't even begin to understand or know about. Sort of like when you throw a stone into a pond and watch the circle of waves spread out. They make ripples on the surface: we can see those ripples, but usually we're completely unaware of the movement of the water under the surface, or even the affects of the surface ripples as they interact with forces beyond our sight.



Last Sunday I attended a contemporary worship service where one of my good friends was bringing the message. His message was part of a series on “Why?” that is being delivered in the weeks before Lent, specifically “Questions about ourselves,” “Why am I sad?”, “Why do bad things seem to always happen?”, “Why do I know the right thing to do and do the wrong thing anyway?”. His list of “why” questions went on for several pages, compiled from input from the congregation. Usually, he would have had a scripture passage to put his message in a biblical context. But this week his inspiration came, not from scripture, but from his son's physics book. Now, since I'm repeating a musician/youth worker/pastor's interpretation of physics' text, don't bother to correct me on the minutiae of the interpretation – just go with the flow on this one.

The simple story is this. All the stuff: the matter – the atoms – in the universe, is the product of stars exploding in the universe, vast light-years away, and therefore vast light-years ago. That stuff – stardust, if you will. The earth and everything on the earth (and other planets, for that matter) are made up of those atoms – that stardust. If all of life is made up from atoms from the same sources, we are connected in pretty amazing ways – we're all made of the same stuff – the same atoms that used to be the same stars, from the same sources.

This level of connectivity was suddenly brought very close to home in that very service when the young man sitting next to me, turned, grinned and put out his hand. “Shirley, Don – We've got to catch up.” Don was the same young man my husband hired right out of college in the early 80's. His daughters are a year older than my daughters. We – my husband, Don and I - spent many hours working for the same company before he and his family moved to Austin, Texas, 15 years ago. Don, his wife Katie and daughter Lizzie are back in town because Lizzie needs some fairly serious medical treatments, and Stanford is the place to be for those. Their pastor sent off an email to the pastor. That church has heartily welcomed them, standing with them through the ups and downs of Lizzie's procedures. Someone from the church is there before each of Lizzie's procedures to pray and be with them. The youth directors and the youth have welcomed Lizzie into the youth group, and Katie is playing violin with the contemporary praise band. I was proud to see the kind of connections that have been made, caring for a family in time of need, allowing them to also be in ministry and serve while here in California.

These are the connections: that we are all children of God, that have an opportunity to live out who we are as God's church and God's people, living out Jesus' message of hope and love in this life in this world. The ripples sent out from an email have made a difference in the lives and hopes of one family far from home.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Shirley

Sexuality, Intimacy & Aging

Los Altos United Methodist Church, Creekside Center

Friday March 24

(8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Workshop Topics: "I'm Not an It": An Overview of Sexuality in Later Life; Factors affecting Sexual Expression in Older Adults; What Would You Do If...; Understanding and Deal with Inappropriate Sexual Behavior; Intimacy' Meaningful conversations

Register by March 13, 2006

\$45 or \$55 with CEUs - \$30 Seniors/Students - \$10 lunch

To register & for info call: Susan Harlan, program manager

(408) 454-5625 www.agingandspirituality.org

Dr. Vicki Schmall is President and Gerontology & Training Specialist with Aging Concerns in West Linn, Oregon. She is a Professor Emeritus of Oregon State University. Dr. Schmall presented a program on older adults, sexuality and intimacy at the ASA 2005 Autumn Series in San Francisco.

Dr. Patrick Arbore is Program Director and Founder of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Related Services (CESP) with the Institute on Aging in San Francisco. He presented a program on intimacy and sexuality in later life at San Francisco University in October 2005



The rhythm of music benefits Shasta Camp



Dave Wolf, San Jose District United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Convener

All music-loving United Methodists (is that redundant?) will want to mark their calendars for one of two concerts benefiting the United Methodist Shasta Camp. The concerts are scheduled for **Saturday March 4** (Los Gatos United Methodist Church) and **Sunday March 5** (Los Altos United Methodist Church), both from **3 – 4:30 p.m.**

The program includes a talented array of artists, highlighted by a combined choir under the direction of Sanford Dole. Mr. Dole is the Artistic Director of the acclaimed 70 member Cantabile Chorale, based in Palo Alto, as well as music director of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. He has also sung with the internationally renowned Chanticleer Men's Chorus.

Other top performers include organists Donna Swanson, Paul Rosas and Jeffrey Workman; the Santa Clara Men's Chorus; Mimi Carlson, flutist with Symphony Silicon Valley; and the Chinese Praise Dance Group of Good Samaritan United Methodist Church. As you can see – an impressive combination of talent, all under one sanctuary!

Proceeds from the free-will offering will go toward the completion of the new retreat center at our United Methodist Shasta Camp. Los Gatos UMC has been very involved in the building of this much-needed facility, from its design (thank you Ray Cobb), to monetary contributions, to VIM support.

For more information, please contact Dave Wolf (408) 268-5806 or by email: Dave or Donna Swanson at Donna.

Lay Speaking Basic Course **March 4 and March 18, 2006**

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

St. Paul UMC-Fremont

Leader: Edna R. Andres

Lay Speaking Advanced Course: *Accountable Discipleship* **April 1 and April 8, 2006**

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

St. Paul UMC-Fremont

Leader: Rev. Dr. Blake Busick

To register: Contact Edna Andres at: erandres@aol.com or 408-956-8156



General Assembly of the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County

Sunday, March 5, 2006, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 South Sunset, Sunnyvale

"Mustard Seeds at work" is the theme of the General Assembly of the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County.

We hope your church will be represented at this meeting!

Please pass this invitation on to the appropriate persons for that to happen!

Every congregation is asked to send 2 voting delegates (including at least 1 layperson). Other folks from your church are welcome to come, too, and learn more about the council and the many ministries within our community!

The program will include stories from a panel of representatives from four local churches who are planting mustard seeds - working for the reign of God on limited resources! EVERY congregation is invited to bring displays or flyers about ministries in which you are involved.

Diana Gibson - Codirector, Santa Clara County Council of Churches 408-297-2660
www.councilofchurches-scc.org, council@councilofchurches-scc.org
Check Flyer in church office for more details.

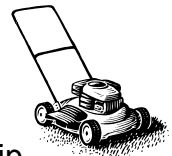
Looking Ahead!

March 19 – Lunch Bunch – Fresh Choice

May 7 – Community Breakfast – Sunnyhills UMC is host. Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m.

May 21 – Lunch Bunch – Bakers Square

Keep **your Saturdays** available in July. Trustees are scheduling a major repair/replacement to the fascia and posts on our buildings. Part of our stewardship is taking care of the church buildings and grounds to help make God's House beautiful.



The schedule for
Lent



Date	Message	Preaching	Lectionary Scripture
March 5, 2006	Praying like Jesus: When you pray, Our Father	Pastor Shirley	Matthew 6:1-21 Luke 11:1-13
March 12, 2006		Laine Sazon, preaching	
March 19, 2006	Praying like Jesus: Thy Kingdom Come	Pastor Shirley	Matthew 6:1-21 Luke 11:1-13
March 26, 2006	Elders as Jewels of Humanity	Rev. Dr. Judith Pruess- Mellow, Executive Director, Senior New Ways	tbd
April 2, 2006	Praying like Jesus: Give us, forgive us	Pastor Shirley	Matthew 6:1-21 Luke 11:1-13
April 9, 2006	Praying like Jesus: Deliver us	Pastor Shirley	Matthew 6:1-21 Luke 11:1-13
April 16, 2006 Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.	There was a stone?	Pastor Shirley	Mark 16:1-8
April 16, 2006 9:30 a.m.	He is here! He has Risen!	Pastor Shirley	Luke 24:1-12

**A Very
Happy
Birthday!**



03/06 Jamie MacLeod
03/06 Daislyn Pease
03/06 Tyler Tanciango
03/09 David Johnson
03/14 Ealasaid Haas
03/14 Sonya Chow
03/26 Huynh Phan

**Best Wishes
for a
Wonderful**

3/5 Gwen & Jack Freeman

Income and Expenses January 2006

INCOME

	<i>JANUARY</i>
Offerings	\$4,065.75
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$6,697.33
Special Giving	\$50.00
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$10,813.08

EXPENSES

	<i>JANUARY</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$1,016.27
Operating Exp.	\$5,833.00
Pastor & Staff	\$4,603.92
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$11,453.19

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$48,093.28
Designated funds	\$42,696.64
Cash Available	\$5,396.64



Calendar

March

1 5:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

(Wed)

11 9:00 AM WRAP

12 6:30 PM Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary

(Sun)

19 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Fresh Choice

(Sun) (Great Mall)

21 **BEACON DEADLINE**

(Tue)

21-27 Pastor Shirley Vacation

April

8 9:00 AM Ministry Teams

(Sat)

9 Palm Sunday

(Sun)

16 EASTER

(Sun)

6:30 AM 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

25 **BEACON DEADLINE**

(Tue)

17-25 **Office Closed**

17-May 4 Pastor Shirley Vacation

May

5-20 **Office Closed**

7 7:00 AM Community Breakfast Sunnyhills is host

13 9:00 AM WRAP

21 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Bakers Square

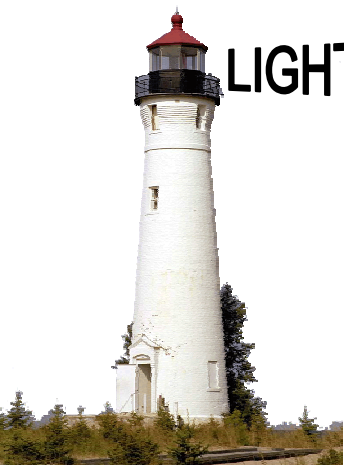
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