



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

April 2006

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Controversy continues to haunt our denomination surrounding a decision last October of our Judicial Council – our equivalent of the Supreme Court. The decision had to do with a pastor's role in deciding an individual's readiness for membership in the church. The thing that makes the particular decision controversial is that the particular member in question is gay, the particular pastor in question chose to deny membership, and the Judicial Council, in their interpretation of the Book of Discipline ruled that the pastor has that right. This story continues to be in the news because the Judicial Council has been asked to reconsider its ruling. You can read more about the entire story at the United Methodist website: <http://www.umc.org/>, then enter "Decision No. 1032" in the "Site Search" box.



Some of the discussions that have begun as a result of the Judicial Council ruling have little to do with that case at all – but with the broader question of the meaning of membership, and expectations of members. I read this week that in general, the churches that are healthiest across denominations – big, growing churches – really do have specific expectations of their members.

One of the reasons that I'm United Methodist is that our Communion table is open – we are welcoming to all who desire a closer relationship with God, to anyone who would partake of the Jesus' supper. One doesn't have to be a member to take communion, to get married in a United Methodist church, to have a funeral in a United Methodist church, to attend worship, or be fully active in the life of the congregation.

Membership in the denomination is not a barrier to any of our worship services, sacraments, or activities. So, what does the United Methodist church expect of its members?

When we become a member of the United Methodist church, or renew our membership vows, we pledge to support the denomination and our local congregation with our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. Here at Sunnyhills, we don't have a check list of what that means – some churches do.

I'd like you to prayerfully consider what that membership vow means in your life. Consider the following:

Prayer – praying daily, spending time in conversation with God, for your family, community, church and the world.

Presence – attending worship regularly, and other church activities as your interests and time permits.

Gifts – your wealth and your time, for the mission of the local church and the church universal

Service – finding something that puts you in action on a regular basis, or a project at least yearly, that reaches out to others outside our local church.

Spend some time considering how you live out your membership vow.

It is my suspicion that if all 63 members of the Sunnyhills UMC really took our membership vows seriously – or even a little more seriously – Sunnyhills would be overflowing with people looking for ways to serve God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley



EASTER



Easter Sunrise 6:30A.M. on the Front Lawn.

Be sure to bring a Finger Food Breakfast dish for the potluck after the service!

Easter Service 9:30A.M. in the Sanctuary.

Including the Halleluiah Chorus Song by the Congregation.

There will be an *Easter Egg Hunt* on the lawn right after church.

Note from the editor:

Pastor Shirley and I will be out of the office the week after Easter. Please get any articles for the May Beacon to me, by way of the church email, no later than the *Morning of Wednesday, April 26, 2006*. I will be working on the May Beacon from home and finishing it up for mailing when I come into the office on Thursday, April 27, 2006. I will not be able to call and remind you so please mark your calendars.

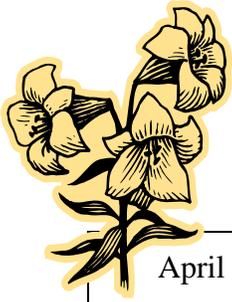
Pastor Shirley will be on vacation April 17 – May 2 and May 22 – May 30.

Susan will be on vacation April 17 – April 26, May 5 – May 11 and May 13 – May 21.

May will also be a busy month. I will be in the office the first week of May. Then I will not be in the office until Friday, May 12, 2006 when I will work on the bulletin for the next two Sundays. I will be out of the office again until May 23, 2006.

Thank you for your help.

Susan Ramsey, Editor



The schedule for
Lent



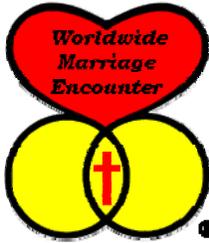
April 2, 2006	Praying like Jesus: Give us, forgive us	Pastor Shirley	Matthew 6:1-21 Luke 11:1-13
April 9, 2006	Praying like Jesus: Deliver us	Pastor Shirley	Matthew 6:1-21 Luke 11:1-13
April 16, 2006 Sunrise: 6:30A.M.	There was a stone?	Pastor Shirley	Mark 16: 1-8
April 16, 2006 9:30A.M.	He IS here! He has Risen!	Pastor Shirley	Luke 24: 1-12

United Methodist Women

Greetings fro Alum Rock UMW. We are writing to invite you to our April UMW meeting, Wednesday, April 5, 2006 to hear Donna Furuta report on the Legislation Event which she will be attending in Sacramento. It should be interesting and informative. The program part of our meeting will begin around 10:45A.M. Come earlier if you wish and visit, also please stay for lunch.

Sincerely,
Kay Adam, Secretary

RSVP: 408-251-6903 or kathynadam@sbcglobal.net



United Methodist Marriage Encounter Weekends



Nation Geographic (February issue) says, “the cocktail of brain chemicals that sparks romance is totally different from the blend that fosters long-term attachment.” So what, really, is this thing called *Love*?

We know that couples can and do want to stay in love, and have long and happy marriages. We invite you to consider a Marriage Encounter weekend to help you make your marriage the best that it can be. Please register early. All weekend retreats are held at a hotel in the Sacramento area so every couple has a private room. *The next weekend in Northern California is May 5 -7, 2006. Contact Couple is Gary & Phyllis Varney 916-371-5019;*

gvarney@yahoo.com **Cost:** *The registration fee is \$75.00. The rest of the cost will be on a donation basis, on the weekend. Visit our website at www.encounter.org/~nca/index.cgi*

Testimonial: Bud and I attended our M.E. Weekend in 1980 right before our 10th wedding anniversary. We went because our pastor asked us to “trust him”. He said the weekend was about taking “good marriages” and making them better. And he was right. We learned about a new level of communication that has stayed with us through the years of our marriage. It was a wonderful and life changing weekend. During the next few years we became trainer/leaders for the weekends. We saw couples who had been married from 5 years to more than 50 years participate in the weekends, including Bud’s and my parents. It was meaningful and a unique experience for each of them. ***I encourage you to give yourselves the gift of a weekend.*** If you have questions please call or email the contact couple or you can call and talk with me. 408-224-9431 or 408-262-1486.

Susan Ramsey

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH”

April 4 - 7, 2006

San Jose State University, Martin Luther King Library

**Commemorate the celebration of healthcare workers throughout the world!
FREE EVENTS.... OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

Schedule of Events

Tuesday - April 4, 2006

Topic: Collaboration with Oaxaca Public Health, Lessons Learned

Panel Presentation 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm MLK Library, Room 225b

Wednesday – April 5, 2006

Topic: Avian Flu

Speaker: Sara Cody, MD, Santa Clara County Public Health Department

4: 00 pm – 5:00 pm Student Union, Costanoan Room

Friday - April 7, 2006 Topic: Health Affects of War and Exploitation

Panel: 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm: Health & The Iraq War

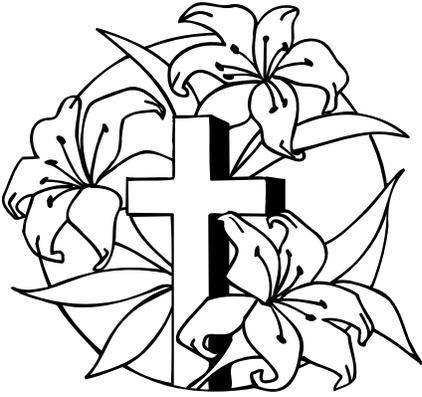
Anne Roesler, EdD, MPH Assistant Professor, SJSU

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm: Health & Sex Workers

Pollie Bith-Melander, PhD Assistant Professor , SJSU

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm: Healthcare in Iran

Nooshin Razani, MD, MPH Depart of Public Health



Garden Clean-Up Day **Saturday—April 1st** **9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

Help us get the Butterfly Garden ready for Easter! Weeds are growing apace and many of the warm-weather shrubs and flowers need trimming to encourage their best bloom. Enjoy a pleasant morning amid the birds and bees while we clean up for the warmer weather to come.

No experience necessary! Bring a willing pair of hands along with weeders, clippers, trowels, etc., if you have them.

Trustees Corner

Our faithful Board of Trustees is working on many projects around the church to maintain our buildings and property:

Ralph Nicklaus is preparing to start work on the long-awaited project to illuminate our cross and front signage. This is a major undertaking requiring repairs to the existing system plus many, many feet of new trench, conduit, lines, and electrical boxes to reach the front of the property. Volunteers will be very welcome to help with the construction.



Lola Dorsey is investigating re-upholstering our chairs. She has taken apart one of the chairs and is constructing patterns in order to calculate yardage and expense for the material. Sturdy new backs will also need to be cut from plywood for all the chairs to be redone. Whew!

July 8-30th is set aside for repairing and replacing posts, overhangs, roofing, fascia, etc. in order to get rid of the dry rot which is consuming our buildings. Emil Sazon and Laurie and Rolf Haas are spearheading this project. We will save at least \$20,000 (yep—twenty thousand dollars!) by doing the work ourselves under the capable direction of those experienced in construction. However, we are going to need lots of help. Volunteers from other churches will be joining us through Volunteers in Mission (VIM) and our direct appeals for aid. As the hosts, we'll need everyone from Sunnyhills UMC to pitch in, too, to help provide meals for the workers, house volunteers who come from a distance, purchase supplies, paint the new work, and, of course, everyone who is able to help with the heavy work. Please mark your calendar now and plan to be with us during July to help rescue our buildings before they are too far gone to save.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 9 – **Palm Sunday.** We are looking for people to help fill plastic eggs right after the worship service. The eggs are for the Easter Sunday egg hunt.

May 7 – Community Breakfast – Sunnyhills UMC is host. Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. If you can help please contact Gwen & Jack Freeman who are coordinating this event. 408-263-8942 or at gwenffreeman@yahoo.com

May 19 – Game Night. Watch for details in the next Beacon

May 21 – Lunch Bunch – Bakers Square

A Very
Happy Birthday
to



04/10 Janyce Singleton 04/15 Marilyn Ray
04/19 Jennifer Touchton 04/22 Marcia Crawford
04/27 John Marcus 04/27 Leola Saterwhite

Income and Expenses February 2006

INCOME

	<i>FEBRUARY</i>
Offerings	\$2,512.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$4,212.38
Special Giving	\$52.15
TOTAL	\$6,776.53

EXPENSES

	<i>FEBRUARY</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$916.27
Operating Exp.	\$3,561.81
Pastor & Staff	\$5,114.57
TOTAL	\$9,592.65

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$45,327.16
Designated funds	\$42,939.79
Cash Available	\$2,387.37



SCRIP UPDATE

Do you have a Community Partner's card? If not, see Daislyn and she will get one for you. We have previously used the Community Partner's card at Albertsons when purchasing groceries. One can use this card at the same time as using Albertson's scrip, or even your Rewards card. Well, even if you don't shop at Albertson's that Community Partners card is now good at Save -On Drugs, or Osco Drug stores. I am pleased to announce that scrip is now available for:

Bath & Body Works \$10	11%	Walgreens \$20	2%
Bath & Body Works \$25	11%	Boston Market \$10	10%
Applebee \$20	6%	Panera Bread \$10	7%
Denny's \$5	7%	TJ Max/Marshall \$25	6%
Red Robin \$10	7%		

Also, Safeway scrip is back again. Contact me if you would like an up to date scrip order form or if you simply want to place a scrip order. Scrip is usually available the following Sunday after you place your order.

Thank you,
Daislyn Pease, Scrip Co-coordinator Daislyn@sbcglobal.net

Calendar

April

1 11:00A.M. Lenten Study: Living with the Mind of Christ

(Sun) in the Sanctuary

8 9:00 AM Ministry Teams

(Sat)

9 Palm Sunday

11:00A.M. Lenten Study: Living with the Mind of Christ

(Sun) in the Sanctuary

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)

26 BEACON DEADLINE

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

19 Game Night

21 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Bakers Square

22-30 Pastor Shirley Vacation

23 BEACON DEADLINE

(Tue)

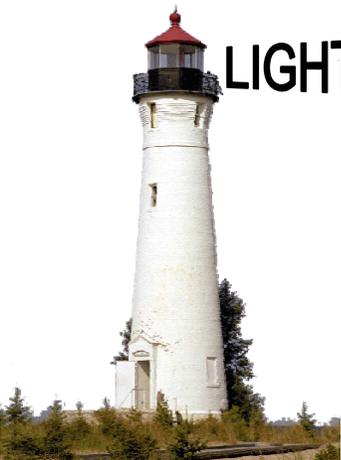
21 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Bakers Square

(Sun) (Calaveras Blvd.)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING