



January 2007

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
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New Beginnings... or a chance to Begin again...

So Just What is the Deal with 363?

Did you ever wonder why there was a red coffee can with 363 painted on it hanging from the shelf by the door where you come into the sanctuary? Well, it's for collecting money for our 363 fund, one of the outreach ministries here at Sunnyhills. You see, people are generous and open their wallets and their checkbooks on two days of the year: Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Bob Wilber thought it was a shame that people only think of those less fortunate on two out of 365 days per year, so he started the 363 fund to cover the other 363 days of the year.

However, the can is too often forgotten, thus a **rebirth** of the fund is needed. Funds for 363 are divided evenly between the Milpitas Food Pantry and the San Jose Family Shelter, both long-standing and excellent local helping organizations.

To **rejuvenate** the fund, which I think we should rename the Bob Wilber 363 fund in his honor, we are going to designate one Sunday a month as "**Change Over Sunday**," a day when people are encouraged to bring all of their loose change to church with them and pass them over to the church. Which Sunday will be decided at the next **WRAP** meeting, but probably the last Sunday. On that Sunday we encourage people to empty their pockets or wallets of change and turn it over to God's work. Don't get me wrong - currency or checks will be gladly accepted. In this way, by making it more of a special offering, this outreach ministry can be improved and grow. Any questions, come to the next WRAP or ask one of those who generally attend.

Thank you,

Daislyn Pease

Notes from the editor:



Choir will start practicing again on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning January 4, 2007 in the Sanctuary.

On **January 7th**, there will be a **Community Breakfast** before church.

WRAP -- Next **WRAP** is scheduled for **January 7**, at **11:15 a.m.**

BEACON DEADLINE: For the February issue – Thursday morning, **January 18, 2006.**

The **Lunch Bunch** will meet at **Lou's Chinese**, Sunday **January 14th** at **noon.**



Dear Friends at Sunnyhills:

Defining Who We Are: Our annual Charge Conference is scheduled for January 21. Among other things we will be doing, it will be an occasion to recognize what we have accomplished this past year, on one hand, and to envision our future, on the other hand. Preparation for the charge conference will include preparing annual reports from each work area, setting up the church budget for 2007, nominating new officers, etc. As we prepare for the charge conference I feel it is appropriate to lay out a view point from which we may look toward for the future of our ministry at Sunnyhills.

Above all, my view point has to do with self-understanding, namely Sunnyhills UMC is a “local” church. This seems too obvious to even mention. Of course, we may define our church differently if we choose so. But if we choose to be a “local” church for valid reasons, then this choice will inform us where we want to go and how.

Being a local church means our ministry is rooted in our immediate community, which is geographically bound. This means, in turn, our ministry needs to reflect the changes in such community. Otherwise, it is only a matter of time before we become unable to explain (even to ourselves) why we call Sunnyhills UMC a “local” church. One of the most visible changes in Milpitas is the growth of different ethnic populations, particularly among Filipino Americans. The idea of starting an ethnic language ministry among Filipino Americans is not new. I learned that it first emerged when Rev. Shirley Macemon, my predecessor, was here; and an Adult Ministry Committee was formed as a way to implement this idea. I have requested the Lay Leadership Committee to act on this idea. With this request, I expect the Lay Leadership Committee to take initiatives in developing new ideas and over all plans for the our ministry. This committee was formerly known as the Nominations Committee.

A point of clarification is necessary here regarding the relationship of an ethnic language ministry with Sunnyhills UMC. That is: The ethnic language ministry will be “one of” the ministry areas under Sunnyhills UMC as we know it with its fifty years of history; and it will be geared toward meeting the needs of the first generation immigrant population. But for the immigrant generation (born in America) we do not need such ministry, because English will be their primary language and their cultural experience is in fact part of being American.

We may begin the ministry with Filipino Americans. As the need arises we may add another ministries for other ethnic populations in the area. I envision, however, a truly multicultural and multiracial local church ministry emerging in the future under the larger umbrella of Sunnyhills UMC whose core values include diversity and inclusiveness. I sincerely hope that this coming year we will take a concrete step toward realizing this vision.

Sincerely,

Chansoo Lee, Pastor



With a Song in Your Heart, and a Tap of your Toe...

Choir rehearsals resume **Thursday evenings** in January at **7:00 p.m.** *Welcome Back*, and...*Happy New Year!*

Any one interested in joining the choir, please join us in the Sanctuary on Thursdays. We have tons of fun and are always looking for a few good smiles to lend a voice.



A Caroling, Caroling We Did Go...

On December 16, 2006 about 15 of us SUMC warblers descended upon the Mt. Pleasant Nursing Facility to share our music and holiday cheer with the residents there. A great time was had by us, and the residents truly appreciated both the music and the visit.

We then traveled to the homes of Julia Jones and Marilyn and Ron Ray where we sang some more and laughed a lot. They were sure glad we dropped by, before we went back to the church for some of Gwen's beans and some tasty pumpkin pie. And all this was accomplished before the rains came. (OK a few drops did get to us, but not many) We gotta do this again next year!

Important Dates to Remember

► *Church Conference*

(and preliminary reports due)

The annual Church Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, **January 21, 2007** directly after worship services in the Sanctuary. All Charge Conference **committee reports** are **due to Gwen Freeman** at the WRAP meeting on **January 7, 2007**.

► *Worship Planning Committee*

The **Worship Planning Committee** will meet at **6:00 p.m.** on **Thursdays, January 11, 2007** and **January 25, 2007**.

► *Confirmation Class*

Our Confirmation Class resumes in **January** on the **19th** and the **26th** of the month. We will meet at the church at **6:30 p.m.** If there are any location changes, members will be notified directly.

► *Lunch Bunch*

Lunch Bunch will meet **Sunday, January 14, 2007** at **noon**. We will be at **Lou's Chinese** at the corner of Jacklin and Park Victoria (next to the Pizza Box)



► *Anniversary Planning Meeting*

All those interested or have ideas for the **50th Anniversary** celebration for the Church, please come to the meeting on **January 28, 2007** right after Church.

**Happy Birthday
Wishes to...**

- 01/01 Emil Sazon
- 01/10 Don Egbert
- 01/16 Vennie Holloway
- 01/16 Joyce Johnson
- 01/17 Eugenia Allen Egbert
- 01/17 Rebecca Marcus
- 01/20 Julia Jones
- 01/22 Laurie Haas
- 01/23 Guy Haas



Church Anniversary

01/19 Anita and Reuben Valderrama

Income and Expenses
November 2006

INCOME

	<i>November</i>
Offerings	\$ 4,282.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 4,252.57
Special Giving	\$240.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,774.57

EXPENSES

	<i>November</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 916.27
Operating Expense	\$ 2,367.94
Pastor and Staff	\$ 4,747.10
TOTAL	\$ 8,031.31

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$39,362.93
Designated funds	\$45,032.60





Sunnyhills United Methodist Church will be taking up a special offering on **Sunday, January 21, 2007** for Pastor Victoria Schlintz of the Atwater United Methodist Church. Pastor Schlintz is a vibrant, energetic, passionate and compassionate individual with a deep love for God and her ministry. Pastor Schlintz also has ALS. (Lou Gehrig's disease) She has served the Atwater Methodist Church since July 1, 2004 and her parishioners praise her continued enthusiasm, joy of service and energetic interaction in all activities in directing and supporting the spiritual needs of their 300ish members.

Pastor Schlintz is in need of an especially equipped vehicle, that will accept her wheel chair and enable her to drive, for her to continue to be as successful in her ministry. There has been a fund set up seeking \$40,000 to purchase such a vehicle.

You may learn more about Pastor Schlintz in the November issue of Connection, see page 11, or pick up a copy of the original article in the church office.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

To Rolf Haas and his company, Metal Super Markets who have so graciously donated such a huge amount of coffee to Sunnyhills United Methodist Church, that we probably won't need to actually purchase any until 2008!! Wooo Hooo, and Thanks again.



Calendar

January

- 4 Choir Practice
- 7 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall
WRAP
- 11 Worship Planning Committee
Choir Practice
- 14 Lunch Bunch at Lou's Chinese (Noon)
- 18 *Beacon Deadline*
Choir Practice
- 19 Confirmation Class
- 21 CHURCH CONFERENCE
- 25 Worship Planning Committee
Choir Practice
- 26 Confirmation Class
- 28 50th Anniversary Planning Meeting

February

- 1 Choir Practice
- 4 Community Breakfast in Jones Hall
- 8 Choir Practice
Worship Planning
- 9 Confirmation Class
- 11 Special Offering
- 11 WRAP after Service
- 15 Choir Practice
- 21 Ash Wednesday
- 22 Choir Practice
- 23 Confirmation Class
- 25 Lunch Bunch – Casa Azteca

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