



# 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.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills)

**September 2010**

"Dear Heavenly Father,

Sometimes summer seems too short, but I'm glad that school is starting because I want to see my friends. Help me focus on my studies as much as the fun. I want people to know that I follow you but sometimes it's a little scary. Give me patience when teachers are boring or classes uninteresting, and strength to ask for help when I need it. Help me avoid temptation. Show me how to live a life that is pleasing to you. If I am in danger, protect and guide me. I want to look cool, but there are so many things I don't know.

Please give me strength to refuse the things that can hurt me and to avoid hanging out with friends who encourage me to do things I know I shouldn't do. I'm not very strong when it comes to saying "No," but your help makes a difference. Forgive me for the times when I am weak.

Thank you for my parents. Sometimes we don't agree, but I know they love me. Help me to be respectful and obedient, even when I don't feel like it.

This will be a busy year. Please help me keep my relationship with You as my number one priority. Thank you for the many ways that you care for me. I love You.

In the name of Jesus, *Amen.*

## Note from the editor:

The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday - September 11, 2010** at **8:00 a.m.**..

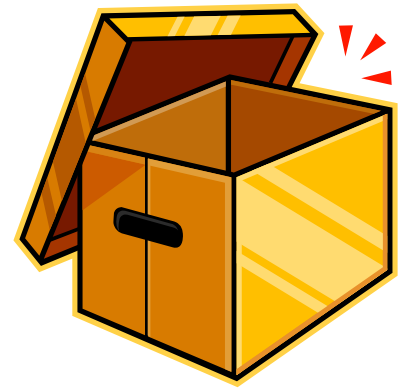
**Lunch Bunch** will gather again, Sunday - **September 12, @ 11:30 a.m.**..

**BEACON DEADLINE:** For the October issue – **Thursday** morning, **September 16, 2010.**

**September 26th** is **Change-over Sunday.**

(See Page 3 for further calendar details)





Dear Friends:

My usual refrain as we approach September is, “What ever happened to the summer?” I know many of you have been traveling. I’ve had a whirlwind summer that included leadership at two of our youth Conference Camps, a week of family camp, getting Rebecca graduated and moved home, and moving back into the office at Sunnyhills.

I’m happy to say that the office-moving process is almost over. My library does fit on the shelves, I’ve hung things on the walls, and most of the boxes are finally secured away somewhere that isn’t the middle of the floor.

While I’ve been moving boxes around at Sunnyhills to get my office settled I’ve also been moving boxes at home: weaving, spinning and sewing supplies and furniture to the Dining Room, seriously downscaling my home office and library, moving Rebecca’s essentials into my home office (her new bedroom). She’s been in an apartment for the last 4 years, and accumulated all those things necessary for living. Everything doesn’t fit, and she’s a particularly good sport about it.

You get the picture, lots of stuff on the move. During all this, I come to wonder whether I “own” my stuff, or whether my stuff “owns” me. How much do I lug from place to place because it was useful at one time in its life (and might be again), but right now it is one more box to trip over. How much do I hold onto in the hopes that “I’ll get to it” or reasoning that “Since I paid for it, it must be valuable”?

Of course, life is not unlike the stuff I’ve been moving around. It has been humbling to look back at attitudes and opinions, hurts and injustices that I’ve held onto with the same fervor that I care for my spinning supplies. They were useful once, but do I really need them anymore? If I’ve given them heart or head space, what is it that I just don’t have room for because I’m holding onto “stuff” that is no longer useful?

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus tells us that “*where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (Luke 12:34)

Autumn may be quickly approaching, but I’m thinking it is time for Spring Cleaning – not only in my crowded office and home, but most especially in my attitudes and emotions. I invite you to join me in this challenge. Let the hurts of the past go, embrace what can be today for the future.

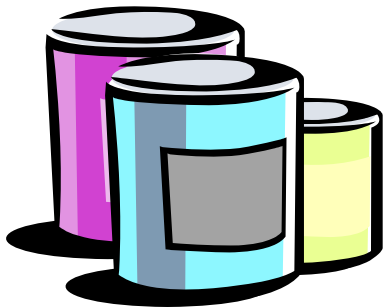
I’ll see you on Sunday!

Pastor Shirley



► **Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir**  
***They're Baaacckkk!*** Starting **Thursday, September 2, 2010** the **choir** will resume practicing and performing **Sundays** during **worship**. Come on by the **Sanctuary** at **7:00 p.m.** and lend your voice and have some fun. New voices are always welcome so join Gwen and the choir as they put together some heavenly chords.

► **Lunch Bunch** will have their next outing, **September 12, 2010** at **11:30 a.m.**, to **Casa Azteca**.



► **Change-Over Sunday** is **September 26, 2010**. Your consistent support to this ministry is invaluable. The Milpitas Food Pantry has been in transition recently, but it is such a blessing for the commitment to this cause to be so unwavering. Thanks again for everything you do.

► **Ad Council**  
The **Administrative Council** for **SUMC** will meet at **11:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, September 19, 2010** in the church office. For further information, please contact Guy Haas.



**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 09/05 Eric Cruz
- 09/12 Ruth Logsdon
- 09/15 Erin Cruz
- 09/15 Rolf Haas
- 09/15 Ron Ray
- 09/16 Joe Martin (Jamie)
- 09/17 Anna Phan
- 09/21 Karen Schreifels
- 09/22 Warren Scott
- 09/25 Isak Larsen
- 09/26 Dee Bragg



**Church Anniversary**

- 09/15 Ann and Fred Zeise
- 09/21 Aida and Pablo Cruz
- 09/23 Emil and Laine Sazon



**Income and Expenses  
July 2010**

**INCOME**

	<i>July</i>
Offerings	\$2,958.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$4,836.83
Special Giving	\$ 19.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,814.66</b>

**EXPENSES**

	<i>July</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 900.00
Operating Expense	\$ 1,938.73
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,227.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,066.34</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$33,073.37
Designated funds	\$24,548.27



## ***Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association News --Guy Haas***

The Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association is alive and well. Jack Freeman and I are both now on its board of directors, which meets the first Wednesday of every month in Jones Hall. I basically stepped into the seat left vacant by the death of Herb Holloway, and Jack was elected at large at the July meeting.

On Tuesday, September 7, the Association will be one of several organizations attending the City Council meeting (7:00 p.m. at City Hall) to support the moving of the Milpitas Food Pantry to the Cracolice Building which formerly housed the Milpitas Senior Center. Many residents of the Terra Serena neighborhood around that location are worried that the Food Pantry will increase not only traffic, but the number of homeless persons in their area. Many say that they strongly support the Food Pantry, but not in THEIR neighborhood. SNA points out that many residents of Sunnyhills have used (or will use as this recession continues) the services offered by the Food Pantry, and urge you to come join their cause.

SNA and SUMC cooperatively host the monthly-during-the-school-year Community Breakfast, which starts again on September 11 at 8 a.m. in Jones Hall with a presentation by the County Registrar of Voters.

SNA held a "Be An Artist Day" in our west parking lot in May, with various tables presenting interesting goods and materials for the parents while the kids were being artists. We had a blood drive and an exhibit on fire safety from the Milpitas Fire Department.

An SNA logo contest aimed at youth will begin in September with the winner to be announced at their December pot luck. The top prize is a Dave & Busters \$100 gift card.

SNA is presenting another grand Halloween costume event on October 30, at the home of Wiley Rankin, which will also promote Neighborhood Watch.

On October 23, SNA will host a mixer event for the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County in the multipurpose room at the Milpitas Library. UNSCC is an association of neighborhood (and homeowner) associations.



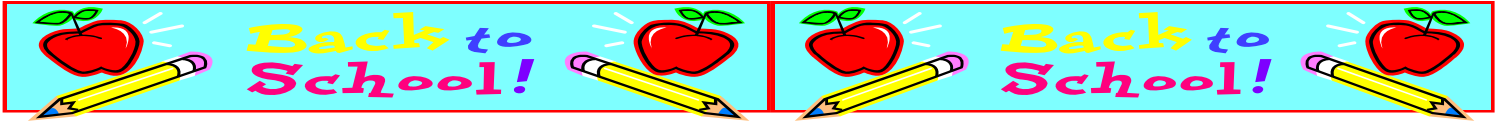
## **Community Breakfast Schedule**

The following is the Community Breakfast Schedule for the remainder of 2010.

September 11, 2010	Registrar of Voters
October 2, 2010	City Council Candidates
November 6, 2010	County Grand Jury
December 4, 2010	Milpitas Fire Department

All participants are responsible for food and paper items for which you will be notified in advance.

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
Guy Haas  
(408) 262-1486



## *Churches Struggle to Stay Connected to College Students*

8/19/2010



(Photo courtesy of Main Street UMC.)

Members and staff of Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford, Virginia, do several things to try to stay connected with students after they go to college. Lauren, left, and Ryann Mason are shown at a picnic during the youth mission trip before Ryann left for James Madison University this month. Her sister, Lauren, is a rising junior who also is active in youth group.

Students from Garden Street United Methodist in Bellingham, Washington, travelled to Salt Lake City to work



with UMCOR West. Photo courtesy of Garden Street UMC. **By Renee Elder\***

Congregations routinely celebrate college-bound youth with farewell gifts, and parties featuring slideshows of preschool Christmas pageants, high school mission trips, and almost everything in between. But youth leaders and pastors who want to extend the relationship into the months and years ahead often struggle to find the right approach.

"It's hard," says Carol Ellis, director of Youth and Children's Ministries at Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford, Virginia. "Each church comes up with its own strategy, not only in terms of resources, but [also] within the context and culture of that congregation. Some congregations find there is a great deal of interest in engaging with college-age students; others don't."

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## **"Snail-Mail" care packages, cards are good**

Ellis's church sends care packages containing food, pens, pencils, sticky notes, and such to its college students at exam time, and offers The Upper Room devotional booklets to those who request it.

"On Communion Sundays, we put the names of our youth, service persons, and other young adults on slips of paper. As people leave the Communion rail they are encouraged to take a name from the basket and to pray for that individual in the coming month," Ellis says.

These time-honored and caring approaches are valuable, and college youth especially appreciate regular mail, says the Rev. Bridgette Young, assistant general secretary for Campus Ministry and College Chaplaincy, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

"Food is always good – they're looking for things they can microwave really easily," Young says. "Ear plugs and sleep masks are good if they're in a residence hall where things are going on 24 hours a day. Other popular items for care packages are gift cards for discount and grocery stores – things they can use to help them in their day-to-day college survival."

Even a greeting card from their home church crew can provide a lift.

"People may think it's old-fashioned to send a card, but the students tell me that going to the mailbox and getting something that's not a bill – that instead is a message saying 'Thinking of you' or 'Happy Birthday' – means a lot," Young says.

## **Social networking connects over distance**

With college students increasingly tuned in to electronic communication, more churches are using social media such as Facebook and Twitter to keep students connected despite geographic distance.

The Rev. Bill Green, of Garden Street UMC in Bellingham, Washington, said his church makes sure college freshmen join the Facebook group for campus ministry. "That way they get an idea of what is going on here, and it allows us to keep track of how they are doing, too."

"We make sure we have events happening at Christmastime when they come back, and we make sure they have an invitation to those events. We also continue to work with them, as far as leadership development," Green says.

Young says all types of connections are helpful.

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"When I was an associate pastor at a local church, I had students who throughout their four years of college would make sure they were there for our summer Bible study. We tried to make it special for them, with life-application oriented topics," Young says.

Many college students today say they feel most connected via the Internet. Maria Cuch, 23, a former Washington University student who now works as a youth leader at Garden Street UMC in Bellingham, sees that especially with recent high school graduates.

"Particularly for people graduating now, the reality is that they are connected on the Internet almost constantly," Cuch says. "They're connected with friends, with family, and, hopefully, church people."

"I've moved five times in the last six years," Cuch says. "When I want to know what's going on with people at home, I don't make calls to them. I connect through Facebook."

Green, reluctantly drawn into the online social networking scene, says he now encourages any church with a high school or young adult ministry to make a point to be on Facebook – with one caveat.

"You have to make sure somebody is available to run the site," he warns. "One of the things that is most deadly is when nothing happens on the site: Then the kids de-list you from their 'friends' page. But if you have something where invitations are going out and there are updates about what's going on at the church, it's a great way to reach people. And it really takes very little time."

It's a job that's often easily delegated to people who love Facebook and will create a site to keep young adults interested, Green adds. "I often pick up messages from college students there, such as: 'If you go on another mission trip let me know about it.'"

### **Take advantage of summer**

Summer is an especially advantageous time to reach out to college-age church members, whether by electronic media or old-fashioned, face-to-face get-togethers.

"We make sure that every two weeks during the summer we have something that happens for them," Green says.

And GBHEM's Young has a special message for pastors: Get in touch with the campus ministers of your graduating seniors to let them know they'll have a student on campus. "When that happens, the campus minister can contact the student, who will immediately have a safe and comfortable place to go on campus," Young says. "We often say that our students are the church of the future; *I* say they are our church *now*."



## Calendar

### September

- 2 Choir Practice
- 5 Worship
- 6 Labor Day (No Centering Prayer)
- 9 Choir Practice
- 11 Community Breakfast
- 12 Worship
- 13 Lunch Bunch at Casa Azteca
- 13 Centering Prayer
- 16 Choir Practice
- 16 *BEACON Deadline*
- 19 Worship
- 19 Ad Council
- 20 Centering Prayer
- 23 Choir Practice
- 26 Worship Change-over Sunday
- 27 Centering Prayer
- 30 Choir Practice

### October

- 2 Community Breakfast
- 3 Worship
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir
- 10 Worship
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 14 Choir
- 17 Worship
- 17 Ad Council
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 21 Choir
- 24 Worship
- 25 Blessing of the Animals
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 28 Choir
- 31 Worship – Change-Over Sunday

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

# LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING

