



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

October 2010

More than 500 years ago, when the Spanish Conquistadors landed in what is now Mexico, they encountered natives practicing a ritual that seemed to mock death. It was a ritual the indigenous people had been practicing at least 3,000 years. A ritual the Spaniards would try unsuccessfully to eradicate.

A ritual known today as Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. The ritual is celebrated in Mexico and certain parts of the United States, including the Valley.

Celebrations are held each year in Mesa, Chandler, Guadalupe and at Arizona State University. Although the ritual has since been merged with Catholic theology, it still maintains the basic principles of the Aztec ritual, such as the use of skulls. Today, people don wooden skull masks called calacas and dance in honor of their deceased relatives. The wooden skulls are also placed on altars that are dedicated to the dead. Sugar skulls, made with the names of the dead person on the forehead, are eaten by a relative or friend, according to Mary J. Adrade, Author.

The skulls were used to honor the dead, whom the Aztecs and other Meso-American civilizations believed came back to visit during the month long ritual.

To make the ritual more Christian, the Spaniards moved it so it coincided with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (November 1 and 2), which is when it is celebrated today. Previously it fell on the ninth month of the Aztec Solar Calendar, approximately the beginning of August, and was celebrated for the entire month.

(Halloween, All Saints' Day, Day of the Dead. I don't believe we need a whole month. Which one will you celebrate?) Have a safe, sane and *fun* holiday. **BOO!**

Excerpts from: <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/articles/dead-history.html#ixzz10DMo86m8>

Note from the editor:

The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – October 2, 2010 at 8:00 a.m..**

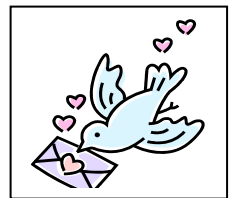
Lunch Bunch will gather again, Sunday - **October 3, @ 11:30 a.m..**

BEACON DEADLINE: For the November issue – **Tuesday morning, October 19, 2010.**

Ad Council will meet again, **Sunday, October 17, 2010** after worship in the **church office.**

November 7th is the next **Change-over Sunday.**

(See Page 3 for further calendar details)





Dear Friends:

I'm writing from the balcony of a cabin at Camp Lodestar, near Jackson, CA. I've been here this week to do worship planning and to attend a long meeting concerning Conference Camping. Although it is a bit chilly at night, I can't ask for a better venue for the work I'm doing this week!

Worship Planning generally gets me looking ahead at not only what we'll be doing on Sunday morning, but who we will be when we get to that time, what we will have done and what is around the corner from that date. In some way, each day changes who we are, and how we react and interact with each other and the world.

October brings a Blessing of the Animals, on Sunday October 24th. Not only are we planning for a front lawn gathering after worship, the Stargeezers, a four-piece acoustic/vocal group will bring us special music. They are a wonder to listen to and to sing along with, so I hope you'll be in worship that morning.

On October 31, we will be worshipping with Genesis UMC in their sanctuary. They've been a nomadic group since their inception, and are now worshipping in converted office space in back of the office park on Old Oakland road and Murphy/Brokaw in San Jose. Their pastor, Rev. Sifa Hingano, will be on a mission trip in Tonga; I'll be preaching. We'll arrange for someone to be at Sunnyhills that morning to collect anyone who didn't get the message, and transport as necessary. Genesis worship is contemporary in the best of that continually emerging tradition.

As we move through the next several months together, I invite you to think and dream about who you want us to be in the future. Will we always be chasing after resources to maintain our small, welcoming congregation? Are there different ways we might be in ministry through the use of our property? Are there other ways in which you feel God is calling us to be active in the community?

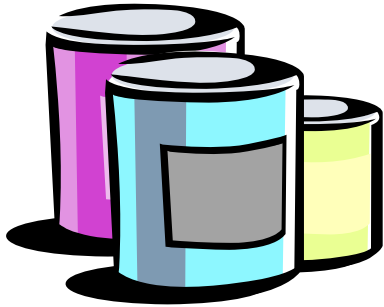
Blessings as we work toward the Kingdom,

Pastor Shirley



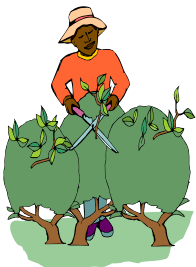
► **Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir** are now rehearsing **Thursdays** beginning at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**. Please note the change of time. Come on by and lend your voice to add to a *GREAT SOUND*. New voices are always encouraged to join Gwen and the choir as they put together some heavenly chords and have a bunch of fun.

► **Lunch Bunch** will have their next outing, **October 3, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.**, to the **Omega Restaurant**. Omega is located at 90 South Park Victoria. Come along and join in the fun for some good food and *GREAT* fellowship.



► **Change-Over Sunday** is **November 7, 2010**. As the months start to turn colder (*so the calendar says it should be doing but it is currently 93° as I write this*) the food provided by the Milpitas Food Pantry becomes even more vital for some of our neighbors. Your contributions to this ministry are invaluable. Thank you again!

► **Ad Council**
The **Administrative Council** for SUMC will meet at **11:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, October 17, 2010** in the church office. For further information, please contact Guy Haas.



► **Trustees**
The Trustees will meet again on **Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church office. Any questions, please contact Daislyn Pease.

Happy Birthday Wishes to...

10/16 Anita Valderrama
10/25 Joanne Larsen
10/25 Bob Martin
10/31 Aida Cruz



Church Anniversary

10/23 Hylasue Mercurio and
Pam Bini



Income and Expenses August 2010

INCOME

	<i>August</i>
Offerings	\$4,062.31
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$4,072.38
Special Giving	\$ 25.44
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 8,160.13

EXPENSES

	<i>August</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 500.00
Operating Expense	\$ 2,106.92
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,547.16
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 8,154.08

FUND BALANCES

Cash on hand	\$33,079.42
Designated funds	\$24,758.71



PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Shirley's email address is: smacemon@gmail.com
The previous address of smacemon@pacbell.net is no longer monitored. Please remove this address from your address lists. Thank you

Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association News – Rob Means

REALLY FUN, KID FRIENDLY, PRE HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEN: Sat Oct 30, 2010 from 2-4 PM

WHERE: Augustine Park, Milpitas CA

WHO: All of Sunnyhills Neighborhood, plus their friends

HOW: Come as you are, kids wear costumes, adults can too!

HOW MUCH: FREE!

WHAT: Costume Judging Contest

Live Music

Art Projects

Fire Engine

Toy Raffle

Free Prizes

PLUS: An informative (brief) presentation from the Police Dept about how to make our neighborhoods safer, both on Halloween and throughout the year. We will have signups for Neighborhood watch groups that the police can help organize after the event.



Community Breakfast Schedule

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

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



Genesis UMC Barbeque

We have been graciously invited to join Genesis for their annual barbeque picnic, Sunday afternoon, October 10, at 12:30 p.m.. The picnic will be held at Murphy Park, just off Yosemite Avenue in Milpitas.

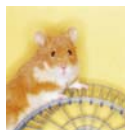


Bring a dish to share. RSVP to Pastor Shirley by Sunday morning, October 10th.



Blessing of the Animals, October 24th

We'll start the morning with special music, provided by the Stargeezers. This four-piece acoustic, country, easy listening and 30's hits group brings us special music. Following worship the Community Blessing of the Animals will commence on the front lawn. Treats for all, Humane Society adoptive animals, educational displays, and of course, your animals! Invite your neighborhood pets to bring their owners.



Scary Scrip

Think forward to Halloween right now and get your scrip to get the goodies for your little trick-or-treaters. Or, purchase scrip for Halloween decorations. Check out Walgreen, CVS, etc, or a grocery store for the candy stuff. See Daislyn or call or email her to place an order: 409-262-4236, daislyn@sbcglobal.net.



Joint Worship Service- October 31st

On October, 31, we will join Genesis UMC for their morning worship service. Pastor Sifa of Genesis will be on a mission trip to Tonga, so Pastor Shirley will be preaching. Genesis worships at 1620 Oakland road, Suite D103. Their worship space is in the back of the office complex on the corner of Brokaw/Murphy Road and Old Oakland Road. Worship begin at 10:00 a.m.. We will have folks at Sunnyhills until 10:00 a.m. with maps and directions, so that latecomers, guests, and those of us who simply forget can be pointed in the right direction. We will not have worship at Sunnyhills that morning.



Annual Charge Conference -- Saturday -- November 13, 2010

The date has been set... so please mark your calendars...

SUMC will be holding its Annual Charge Conference on **November 13, 2010**.

This will be a combined Charge Conference with the other churches within our circuit.

- † **Location: Alum Rock United Methodist Church**
30 Kirk Avenue
San Jose, CA 95127
- † **10:00 a.m.: Opening Worship combined with other circuit churches**
- † **11:00 a.m.: Charge conferences begin in separate classrooms with a circuit pastor presiding over the conference**
- † **11:45 a.m.: All churches gather together for a potluck luncheon**

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Shirley or the church office.



Come One! Come All!

And Bring Your Claw!

(Hammer that is)

*Join Your Trustees on Saturday, October 9, 2010
We'll be gathering at 9:30 a.m.*

For an "All Hands On" workday

No Job too Big or Little!

*We'll be weeding, sweeping, cleaning and gleaming but
Nothing heavy duty, so there's something for everyone.*

See ya'll on the 9th.

Good News of Jesus

Reintroducing the Gospel

*Bible Study
Six Wednesdays*

7:00-8:30 p.m.

October 6-November 10



Based on L. William Countryman's Good News of Jesus,
a life-affirming, thought-provoking, and exciting look
at Jesus and the Gospel news.

*Everyone is welcome!
We'll meet at Karen Schreifel's
Phone 408/568-5200 for directions
See ya' there!!*

Calendar

October

- 2 Community Breakfast
- 3 Worship – World Communion Sunday
- 4 Lunch Bunch at Omega
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 6 Bible Study at Karen Schreifel's
- 7 Choir
- 9 Trustees' Workday
- 10 Worship
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 13 Bible Study at Karen Schreifel's
- 14 Choir
- 17 Worship
- 18 Ad Council
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 20 Bible Study at Karen Schreifel's
- 21 Choir
- 24 Worship
- 25 Blessing of the Animals
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 27 Bible Study at Karen Schreifel's
- 28 Choir
- 31 Worship –at Genesis UMC

November

- 3 Bible Study at Karen Schreifel's
- 4 Choir Practice
- 6 Community Breakfast
- 7 Worship - Change-Over Sunday
- 8 Ad Council
- 8 Centering Prayer
- 10 Bible Study at Karen Schreifel's
- 11 Choir Practice
- 14 Worship
- 15 Lunch Bunch at (Location TBD)
- 15 Centering Prayer
- 16 *BEACON Deadline*
- 17 Trustees' Meeting
- 18 Choir Practice

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Milpitas, CA 95035

FIRST CLASS MAIL

LIGHT FOR LIVING AND GROWING

