



# The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

**Pastor Shirley Macemon**

Church Office  
*Visit us on the Web!*

(408) 262-1486  
[www.gbgn-umc.org/sunnyhills](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/sunnyhills)

**March 2011**

## *A Few Irish Blessings:*

May you always have  
Walls for the winds,  
A roof for the rain,  
Tea beside the fire,  
Laughter to cheer you,  
Those you love near you,  
And all your heart might desire!

May your blessings outnumber  
The shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you  
Wherever you go.

May the best day of your past  
Be the worst day of your future.

May God grant you many years to live,  
For sure he must be knowing  
The earth has angels all to few  
And Heaven is overflowing.



### **Note from the editor:**

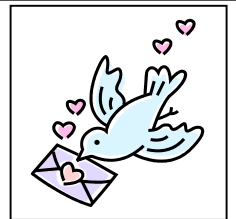
The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – March 5, 2011 at 8:00 a.m..**

**Ad Council** will meet again, **Sunday, March 6, 2011** after worship in the **church office.**

**BEACON DEADLINE:** For the April issue – **Wednesday morning, March 23, 2011.**

**Lunch Bunch** will gather again, Sunday - **March 20, 2011, 11:30 a.m. at La Milpa Restaurant.**

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** is the next **Change-over Sunday.** 1 (See Page 4 for further calendar details)





Dear Friends,

Although Easter seems really late this year – April 24, it also feels like Lent has snuck up way too fast. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is March 9.

Lent is 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter. If you were to look in a Bible dictionary, you wouldn't find an entry for Lent – it isn't a Biblical season. The observance of Lent began in the early Church long before it was actually called Lent, which is a word which we get from the Anglo Saxon word for spring. Some time in the very early church, the custom arose to fast for 40 days (or hours - there is some controversy over this) as a preparation for the feast of Easter. Easter was "the" church celebration – Christmas rose to prominence much later. Over the first hundreds of years of the early church, Lent settled down as a time of fasting and penance; the severity and nature of which varied by region and time. Easter was also the day for baptism and confirmation; those studying for these significant steps in their faith lives used this time for special preparation for those sacraments and rites.

In the contemporary Protestant church, we've pretty much turned away from the fasting and penance traditions of Lent. You may have friends who give something up for Lent, or perhaps this is a custom that you observe. I had never quite made sense of giving something up for Lent: I've never quite made the connection between denying myself chocolate, or soda, or coffee and having a better relationship with God. It always seemed so – well – artificial.

Years ago in my reading I came across an article by Barbara Brown Taylor<sup>1</sup>, an author and preacher whose work I admire. She puts the idea of giving up something for Lent in a light that does make sense to me: that simply giving up a favorite thing is only the beginning. The real work begins when our mind goes to that thing we have given up. We go there and find an empty place. We reach for a latte, candy bar, the TV remote just as we remember that we've given it up. For a split second we panic: what now? What will fill that hole? We can – as we have done so many times – fill that hole with another "thing": We've given up candy, but not an apple. We've given up TV, but not reading. We've given up coffee, but not soda. OR we can simply sit with that empty place and realize that just maybe – just maybe – that place belongs to God. And we can give that place to God. God will be with us in our silence, sit with us in our emptiness, and listen to the needs and desires of our souls.

I invite you to sit with God during this Lenten season. I'm giving up chocolate: I think I get it now.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Shirley*

March 2011

---

Settling for Less, Barbara Brown Taylor, *Christian Century*, Feb. 18, 1998, pg 169

## Lent and Easter at Sunnyhills

Lent has been a time of prayer and meditation in Christianity since the very early church. Join us for these opportunities!

**Ash Wednesday** come-as-you-are, drop in Communion and Imposition of Ashes  
**Wednesday, March 9, 4:00 – 6:00** in the Sanctuary

**Lenten Vespers** Each Thursday during Lent, we will gather in the Sanctuary for a simple potluck meal of soup and bread, followed by a Vesper service and Communion.

**Thursdays: March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14**

**5:30** Potluck soup supper.

Please sign up to bring bread, soup or ready to eat fruit.

**6:15** Vesper service with Communion

**7:00** Choir Rehearsal

### Lenten Sermon/Study series

During Lent, our worship and Pastor Shirley's messages will be focused on the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. *Cultivating Fruitfulness*, a book of devotions, prayer and practice will be available for congregation members. (Details – page 7)

**Save the date**  
**March 12, 2011**

**Worship Workshop led by Marcia McFee**

Held at Los Gatos UMC

Sponsored by the Integrated Circuit

For more information contact Bob Chicou at

Evergreen UMC, 408 238 7631.



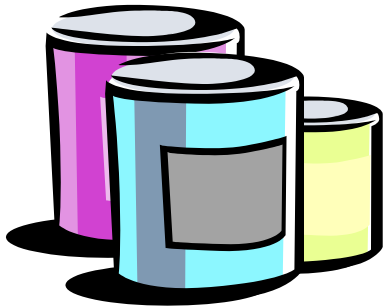
*A little Bird Told Me:* There is a Trustee Meeting scheduled for March 16, 7:00 PM at Karen Schreifels house. (Please forward all information/articles for the Beacon by the deadline.)



► **The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir** rehearses **Thursdays** beginning at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**. They are practicing music for Easter and would love to add some voices to the heavenly chorus praising “Hosanna in the Highest!!” So come on down, join in the fun, and learn some new music as we prepare for lent and Holy Week. Its just around the corner.

► **Ad Council**

The **Administrative Council** for **SUMC** will meet at **11:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, March 6, 2011** in the church office. For further information, please contact Guy Haas.



► **Change-Over Sunday** is **March 27, 2011**.

Snow!!! Here?!? Well, close enough. February might not have been considered “brutal” in Milpitas, CA compared to New York, NY however, to many it was the “coldest” experience of the year. The rains came back with a vengeance and was it ever COLD. With the cold came an even bigger need for support of the Milpitas Food Bank. Family Supportive Housing was still able to keep thousands of our neighbors warm and supported during this very difficult time.

Thanks to everyone who has given so generously of their time, talent and financial gifts. You are all blessings!!!

► **Game Nite**

**Lets Play!!** Come one and all and play till you fall. SUMC is hosting another Game Nite – Friday, March 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



► **Lunch Bunch** will have their next outing, **March 20, 2011** at **11:30 a.m.**, to **La Milpa Restaurant**. **La Milpa** is at 107 N. Milpitas Blvd.

**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 03/06 Daislyn Pease
- 03/06 Kyler Tanciango
- 03/09 David Johnson
- 03/14 Ealasaid Haas
- 03/26 Huynh Phan



**Church Anniversary**

03/05 Gwen and Jack Freeman

**Income and Expenses  
January 2011**

<b>INCOME</b>	<i>January</i>
Offerings	\$3,775.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$7,013.43
Special Giving	\$1,628.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,416.71</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<i>January</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 3,465.00
Operating Expense	\$ 2,540.72
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,943.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,949.00</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$43,579.34
Designated funds	\$22,225.19





## Community Breakfast Schedule

The following is scheduled for the Milpitas Community Breakfast in March 2011.

The Breakfast will be held at Sunnyhills UMC in the Jones hall from 8:00AM to 9:30AM, Saturday, March 6, 2011.

The Senior Advisory Commission and newly-formed Veterans Commission will co-host this month's breakfast. Chairman Denny Weisgerber, who recently received recognition as "Marine of the Year" for Northern California, will lead a discussion of what the Commissions do and their plans for the upcoming year.

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

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
Jack Freeman (408) 262-1486



## Changing the Workplace, Changing the World

Come and join California's 9 to 5 chapters in their 7th annual event on Saturday, April 2, 2011, from 8:30am - 2:00PM.

We have some exciting speakers this year. Kim Bobo will be our keynote speaker (author of the book: *Wage Theft in America*, Kim is a religious and workers' rights activist, and executive director of Interfaith Worker Justice.

We will also have a panel discussion on Paid Leave, Wage Theft and the State Budget whose speakers will include Ron Coleman from the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, Tiffany Crane from Young Workers United in San Francisco, and Brandy Davis from the Labor Project for Working Families.

Our lunch speaker will be Sally Lieber, former Speaker Pro Tempore of the CA state assembly. The event will take place at the SEIU office at 2302 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA. It promises to be a very exciting day. In addition, various people will then visit our legislators in Sacramento on Monday, April 4th. Childcare will be available providing you let us know ahead of time. For more information, contact Daislyn Pease at 408-656-6023.

	<p><b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> <b>April 24, 2009 - 6:30 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Easter Worship Service</b> <b>April 24, 2009 - 9:30 a.m.</b></p>
---	---

# Sunday Worship during Lent and Easter

## Thursday Evening Vespers:

Thursday evenings: **March 17 – April 14**

**5:30 Supper**

**6:15 Vespers with Communion (Details – page 3)**

## Sunday Worship Series:

March 6 Transfiguration Sunday

March 13 Cultivating Fruitfulness: Radical Hospitality

March 20 Cultivating Fruitfulness: Passionate Worship

March 27 Cultivating Fruitfulness: Intentional Faith Development

April 3 Cultivating Fruitfulness: Risk-Taking Mission and Service

April 10 Cultivating Fruitfulness: Extravagant Generosity

April 17 Palm Sunday

April 24 Easter

6:30 Sunrise Service followed by potluck breakfast

9:30 Easter Sunday Celebration

## 2nd Annual Womyn's History March

is Scheduled for

**Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Women are uniting for peace, justice  
marriage equality, safer streets, and much more

They will gather at 10:30AM at Roosevelt Park  
(East Santa Clara and 19th Streets)  
and march to city hall.

For more info email [jwdsouthbay@gmail.com](mailto:jwdsouthbay@gmail.com).



*Don't forget....*

*Spring has Sprung...  
(almost)*

*Daylight Savings Time*

*Begins:*

***March 13, 2011***

## *Calendar*

### March

- 3 Choir
- 5 Community Breakfast
- 6 Worship
- Ad Council
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 9 Ash Wednesday Meditation (6:00 p.m.)
- 10 Lenten Vespers and simple soup supper  
Choir
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Worship
- 14 Centering Prayer
- 17 Lenten Vespers and simple soup supper  
Choir
- 18 Game Nite
- 20 Worship
- Lunch Bunch at La Milpa
- 21 Centering Prayer
- 23 Beacon *Deadline*
- 24 Lenten Vespers and simple soup supper  
Choir Practice
- 27 Worship – Change Over Sunday
- 28 Centering Prayer
- 31 Lenten Vespers and simple soup supper  
Choir

### April

- 2 Community Breakfast
- 3 Worship
- Ad Council
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Lenten Vespers and simple soup supper  
Choir
- 10 Worship
- Lunch Bunch – House of Lion
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 14 Vespers and simple soup supper

## The Beacon

**Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
355 Dixon Road  
Milpitas, CA 95035**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

