



# 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  
*sunnyhillsumc.org*

July 2011

## *That Faithful Fourth*

by Roger J. Robicheau

Our will was strong, our want was great  
Let freedom reign, what better fate

We journeyed long from Plymouth Rock  
The time was clear to end all talk

That fateful fourth our courage showed  
Americans - and how we glowed

We won the right to be self known  
Our independence, clearly shown

The test of time has stood us tall  
Through bravest hearts, some forced to fall

We'll always cherish those we've lost  
Their gift to us, their total cost

Today we face another foe  
And stand together, all do know

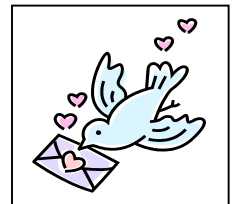
Please often pray to God above  
He's seen our hearts, He knows our love

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

The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – September 10, 2011 at 8:00 a.m..**

**Ad Council** will meet again, **Thursday, August 18, 2011** in **Jones Hall.**

**BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **August** issue – **Tuesday morning, July 19, 2011.**





Dear Friends,

I've just returned from several days at Annual Conference (the annual meeting of United Methodist clergy and lay persons in northern California and Nevada), and a week of Family Camp hosted by the Los Altos UMC at Camp Lodestar in Wilseyville.

Although I couldn't have predicted the conversations of the week, or the national Church events of the week, I was blessed to be in the company of other informed United Methodists. Last week was the culmination of the church trial of the Rev. Amy DeLong, a clergy sister from Osceola, Wisconsin. Rev. DeLong had been charged with "being a self-avowed practicing homosexual" and "conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions," both of which violate our church's Book of Discipline. A guilty verdict could have removed her from ordained ministry.

The jury found DeLong not guilty on the first charge, in part because of technicalities of the case. DeLong and her partner are registered domestic partners in the state of Wisconsin. Found guilty on the second charge, DeLong's sentence is a 20 day suspension to be used for spiritual discernment. The jury also ordered DeLong to draft a document outlining "procedures for clergy" to "resolve issues that harm clergy covenant" jointly with church leaders.

In our own Annual Conference, the Conference voted by a fairly wide margin to send proposals on to the General Conference (the world-wide organization and quadrennial meeting of the denomination, and the only place the Book of Discipline may be changed) to remove constraints and penalties for same-sex clergy, candidates and ceremonies. General Conference will take up these and other matters in its deliberations next spring.

No matter what the General Conference decides next spring, today the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church constrains United Methodist clergy from celebrating same-sex relationship blessings. My personal decision to celebrate these unions is a matter of conscience, witness and faith. My faith informs strong belief that our God is a God of all, loving each of us whether we know it, or believe it. Scripture tells us that we are created in God's own image. Personal experience with life-long friends in long-term, committed, same-sex relationships undergirds my beliefs and actions.

I pray for the day when our Denomination joins other main line faiths, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, and many independent churches in proclaiming "All means All", embracing committed couples in blessing, and called persons to ordained ministry without regard to their sexual orientation.

Working for the Kingdom,

*Pastor Shirley*



► **The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir** Everyone is invited to be a part of our "pick-up choir". Just join us at **9:00 a.m. before Sunday Worship** to learn an easy hymn or anthem. Pick-up choir will sing on the following Sunday's: **July 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **July 24<sup>th</sup>**.

► **Ad Council**

The **Administrative Council** for SUMC will meet at **7:00PM on Thursday, August 18, 2011** in Jones Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For further information, please contact Guy Haas.



► **Change-Over Sunday**

The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **July 31, 2011**. The percentage of families needing support in Santa Clara County continues to rise in these difficult times. ***Thank you again for caring and MAKING A DIFFERENCE!***

► **The Lunch Bunch** will meet again July 24 at 11:30 a.m. The location is yet to be determined. Watch the bulletins and the weekly email blast for further details.



**\*\* Please note: There will be no Centering Prayer on Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.**

**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 07/05 Shirley Macemon
- 07/06 Alex Rovere
- 07/10 Cliveden Haas
- 07/22 Lelaine Tanciango



**Happy Anniversary!!**

- 07/08 Cliveden and Guy Haas
- 07/26 Alex Walker and Catherine Deppe

**Income and Expenses  
May 2011**

<b>INCOME</b>	<i>May</i>
Offerings	\$4,725.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$6,142.96
Special Giving	\$ 736.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$11,604.56

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<i>May</i>
Mission & Outreach	\$ 2,772.61
Operating Expense	\$ 1,648.53
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,287.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 9,708.98

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$44,784.09
Designated funds	\$22,636.70





The following are a few of the closest 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Displays offered in Santa Clara County. Please note that the Fireworks at Great America are on **Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July**. Have fun and a *Safe and Sane* Holiday.

**Milpitas Sports Center Football Field** fireworks

[http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/pdfs/rec\\_activity\\_guide.pdf](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/pdfs/rec_activity_guide.pdf)

*Red, White and Boom! July 4th Celebration* - Fireworks begin approximately 9:30pm. Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy an evening of music by JamFunkShus. Monday, July 4, 2011. 8pm - 10pm, gates open at 7:30pm. 1325 E. Calaveras Blvd. (408) 586-3210.

**California's Great America** fireworks

<http://www.cagreatamerica.com/events/events.cfm>

*Saturday Night Fireworks* - note: Fireworks on Saturday, July 2, 2011. Great America hosts fireworks show every Saturday during July and August 2011. Park open 10am - 10pm with Planet Snoopy, rides, rollercoasters, live shows and many dining options. 4701 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054. (408) 986-5866.

**San Jose Municipal Stadium** fireworks

<http://www.sjgiants.com>

*San Jose Giants Fireworks Extravaganzas* - Get tickets for Monday, July 4, 2011 or Tuesday July 5, 2011. 588 East Alma Avenue, San Jose, CA. (408) 297-1435 ext. 15.

**Shoreline Amphitheatre** fireworks

<http://www.sfsymphony.org/season/Event.aspx?eventid=48766>

*4th of July Fireworks Spectacular with the San Francisco Symphony* - Fireworks display, set to stirring patriotic songs and marches. Program to be announced.



**Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, September 10, 2011, 8:00 a.m.**

Hosts and presenters for the next meeting are yet to be announced. Please keep your eye on the *Beacon* to provide this information next month.

The breakfast, a 50-year old tradition in Milpitas, is sponsored by the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church. Breakfast is free (donations requested). All Milpitas residents and business owners are invited to attend and participate. Breakfasts run from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Jones Hall, Sunnyhills United Methodist Church, 355 Dixon Road (across from Weller School playground). The Milpitas Community Breakfast occurs the first (non-holiday) Saturday of the month except July and August. The next Breakfast will be September 10, 2011. For more information, call 263-8942.

## Calendar

### July

- 3 Worship  
*There will be no Centering Prayer due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday*
- 10 Worship
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 17 Worship
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 19 Beacon *Deadline*
- 24 Worship
- 25 Lunch Bunch – Location TBD
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 31 Worship – Change Over Sunday

### August

- 1 Centering Prayer
- 7 Worship
- 8 Centering Prayer
- 14 Worship
- 15 Centering Prayer
- 18 Ad Council – Jones Hall
- 21 Worship
- 22 Centering Prayer
- 23 Beacon *Deadline*
- 28 Worship Change-Over Sunday
- 29 Centering Prayer

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

