



# 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

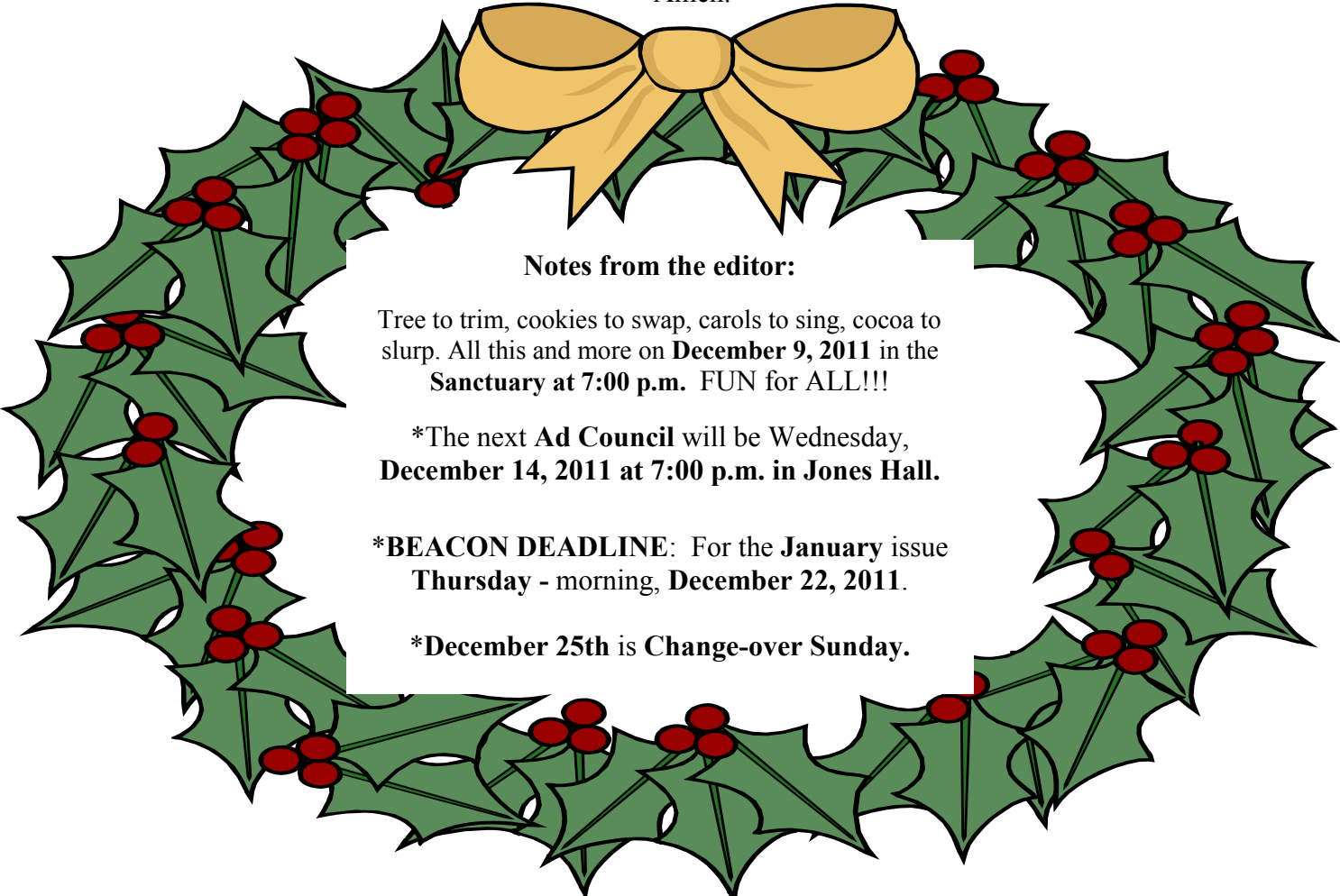
[www.sunnyhillsumc.org](http://www.sunnyhillsumc.org)

December 2011

## A Christmas Prayer

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth . . .  
may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us.  
As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had  
ever known,  
so may *we* worship you in meekness of heart.  
May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of  
giving.

**THANK YOU, LORD,**  
for the gift of Your love.  
May I be a shining example  
of that love to others.  
Amen.



### Notes from the editor:

Tree to trim, cookies to swap, carols to sing, cocoa to slurp. All this and more on **December 9, 2011** in the **Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.** FUN for ALL!!!

\*The next **Ad Council** will be Wednesday, **December 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall.**

\***BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **January** issue **Thursday - morning, December 22, 2011.**

\***December 25th is Change-over Sunday.**

# Hope...



Dear Friends,

Some years, we have a Sunday between Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. I love those years: it gives us a chance to catch our breath before the Season begins.

This year we did not. And this year Advent is as long as it can ever be – an entire 5 weeks between the First Sunday in Advent (November 27) and Christmas: Sunday December 25. These weeks not only give us a wonderful chance to prepare for Christmas, they are also something of a risk: an extra week between the Black Friday kick off of consumerism and sales and Christmas. One more week to over-spend, or over-think our gift giving and receiving.

I urge you to resist the temptation.

Many of you will have already received an Advent meditation and prayer guide. If you have not, and would like one, call the office (or drop us an email) and we'll send one right out. I find that a daily meditation helps to keep me focused on "the reason for the season", instead of my tendency to over-spend and over-gift during this season.

I also suggest checking out [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org). *Advent Conspiracy*, formed by a few congregations more than 4 years ago, suggests that we forgo purchasing a present that we otherwise might buy, and putting those funds into mission. Check out the website for more ideas of keeping Advent Christ-centered.

Even though Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Jesus birth, we at Sunnyhills are also in preparation for some major campus maintenance. You will read about that in this Beacon: We need to replace all of our roofs. As you can imagine, this is no small endeavor. I want to thank Cliveden Chew Haas for leading this effort and working with our contractor. I also want to extend hearty thanks to Dave Hufton, a member of the Santa Maria Old Catholic Congregation, who's \$10,000 gift almost a year ago has focused our maintenance effort, forcing us to look at our buildings from a longer-term perspective.

During December, our Administrative Council will officially approve a plan for all three roofs. As you see, we need an additional \$50-\$60,000 to complete the project. A formal Capital pledge campaign will begin in the next few months. We will also gladly receive gifts before the end of the year: These will lower your 2011 tax liability, and greatly help our planning. Make sure to note your donation to "Building fund."

Blessings on your Advent Season.

*Pastor Shirley*



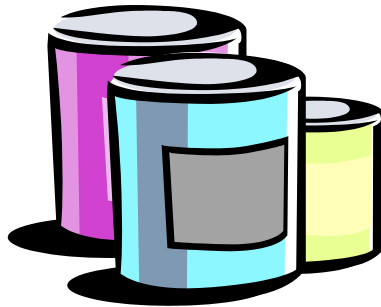
► ***We Wish You a Merry Christmas!***

We wish you would join the choir  
We wish you would join the choir  
We wish you would join the choir  
And sing with us here.

Please come join the group on Thursdays  
Please come join the group on Thursdays  
Please come join the group on Thursdays  
And join our good cheer!

The choir meets every **Thursday** at **6:30PM** in the Sanctuary. Drop on by and have a FUN time, learning some great music and celebrating the reason for the season.

► **Ad Council** will have their next meeting, **Wednesday, December 14, 2011 in Jones Hall at 7:00p.m.** We hope to see you there.



► ***Thank you all again for all the giftcards collected to support families at Thanksgiving.*** Your prayers and support make such an incredible difference in so many lives. **Thank you again for your continued generosity.** Change over **Sunday is December 25, 2011.**

► **Trustees**

There will be no more Trustees' meetings in 2011. Please keep your eye on the weekly broadcast emails for the next scheduled meeting. Have a very, **MERRY Christmas** and a sane, but **Happy New Year.**



## ***Some Food for Thought.... Observations from the Back Row***

When attending Worship, change seats and observe your surroundings. Try sitting some place new.

During the summer when I sat in the back by the door a few times, I discovered a few things:

1. Remember to pass the sign-in book (but not too early). Encourage newcomers to sign in so we have their contact information.
2. Make sure newcomers (or old-comers too) have a bulletin.
3. If newcomers come in while we are singing a hymn or are struggling to find the right page in the right book, offer them your hymnal or share your hymnal with them.

And I recently heard a different twist on 'praise' music. New Creation - a new ministry meeting at Campbell UMC - have a young praise team that play and sing old familiar hymns and sing them as 'praise' music.

And I heard about churches in a local circuit meeting on a regular basis (not just the annual meeting and not just the pastors) sharing ideas and resources - i.e. 4-5 churches sharing advertising costs. Remember - we are a connectional church - we do not stand alone.

Submitted by,

Gwen Freeman



## ***Holiday Scrip***

Treat your loved ones to a scrip card for the holidays. That way you don't go out and buy something they don't like. Get a scrip card for a store they like, and then they can get just the right something there. Books at Barnes and Noble, clothes at The Gap, Macy's or many other fine stores, Movies, music or computer games at Best Buy. See or call Daislyn for the complete list [\(408\) 656-6023](tel:4086566023). They make great stocking stuffers too!

*Happy Holidays!*

**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 12/02 Virginia Mathiesen
- 12/05 Katherine Twite
- 12/09 Alex Walker
- 12/11 Juanita Whetstone
- 12/25 Jack Freeman
- 12/25 Mark Pereyra
- 12/27 Robert Pease
- 12/31 Helen Phan
- 12/31 Huy Phan



**Happy Anniversary!**

- 12/16 Margaret and Warren Scott
- 12/24 Winnie and Vilma Ware
- 12/31 Myra and Ralph Nikolaus

**Income and Expenses  
October 2011**

**INCOME**

	<i>October</i>
Offerings	\$ 6,251.94
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 6,881.39
Special Giving	\$ 220.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,353.45</b>

**EXPENSES**

	<i>October</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,483.22
Operating expenses	\$ 2,520.58
Pastor & Staff support	\$ 4,979.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,983.32</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$48,641.54
Designated funds	\$21,906.71



# Thank You!!!.....



## Operation Care and Comfort

Operation Care and Comfort provides support for our troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflict regions. This care and comfort takes many forms. At Sunnyhills we are working through Jo Roll who has made greeting cards for troops to send to their loved ones. This effort is being expanded by our donation of toiletries and other personal items that are sent to the troops on a regular basis. Even though we are expecting many of our troops home, the need is still real.

A basket on the back table in the sanctuary is the on-going place to leave your donations.

Although the Christmas shipment has already been made, there are current needs for:

- hand and foot warmers
- warm knit caps and socks (washable fabrics)
- small packets of Kleenex, q-tips, AA and AAA batteries, disposable razors, wet-wipes, etc.
- individually wrapped snacks and candy: Twizzlers, Tootsie Rolls, Tootsie Pops, Skittles, lollipops, Life Savers, Sweet Tarts, etc, gummy bears (and other gummies), chewing and bubbler gum, jerky (no pork, please), nuts, seeds, pretzels, cookies, chips (Pringle type containers best), Cracker Jacks, crackers, Corn Nuts, fruit snacks and fruit leather, Gardetto's
- AT&T phone cards
- Small, seasonal decorations: (Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter)

These shipments do make a difference! Following is a note from one of our troops:

Ma'am,

I just wanted to write you and tell you how much I appreciate the home made cards you sent in one of the care packages. I have two little girls who love getting notes from their mommy. These will surely brighten their day. Thank you again and look forward to more cards in the future.

Very Respectfully,

HM2 (FMF) Rxxxxxx

1st MLG (FWD)

Blood Coordinator

Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

**“We can do no great things - only small things with great love.” - Mother Teresa**

## Holiday Peace Fair coming soon:

Saturday December 3 at the Willow Glen United Methodist Church. 9 - 4. There's entertainment, food, and lots of gifts sold by non-profit vendors of peaceable items. It's a great place to do some holiday shopping. There are clothes similar to the Bolivian handcrafts we had here, games for kids, calendars and other artful things. Some of you have supported 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women, which is one of the vendors. See Daislyn for advance tickets at \$2.00.

## Sanctuary Decoration, Cookie Exchange and ...



Friday evening December 9 will find our sanctuary brimming with activity. There is a tree to be trimmed, the sanctuary to be decorated, cookies to be exchanged, and carols to be sung.

Also probably some Christmas Crafts to keep our hands busy!

Join us and bring your friends. We'll start at 7:00 p.m., and there's something



for everyone.

For the cookie Exchange, bring your own favorite Christmas cookies.

We'll put some

of them on the "eat them now" table, and the remainder on the Exchange Table.

During the

evening, you will choose from the variety of treats on the Exchange table to take home your customized cookie assortment. You'll take home as many cookies as you've put on the Exchange table. Please make a note of what kind of nuts (if any) you use in your cookies, and any other "special" ingredient issues: sugar-free, fat-free, lactose free, etc



### *Sunnyhills Worship and Fellowship: December 2011*

Sunday, November 27

*Waiting*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent 1



Sunday, December 4

*Watching*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Advent 2



Friday, December 9

Sanctuary Decorating and Cookie Exchange

7:00 p. m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 11

*Willing*

Isaiah 61:1-11

Advent 3



Sunday, December 18

*Wanting*

Luke 1:26-38

Advent 4



Saturday, December 24

Service of Carols and Lights,

7:00 p. m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve



Sunday, December 25

Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!

Christmas Day





# It's Time To Re-Roof Our Buildings

Indeed, it is well **PAST TIME** to take care of our aged (*very aged!*) roofs. They are way beyond their “replace before” date. Walk around any of our SUMC buildings and look up. You will see water leakage, dry rot damage, and wood- pecker holes (the woodpeckers are after the insects that live in the damaged areas).

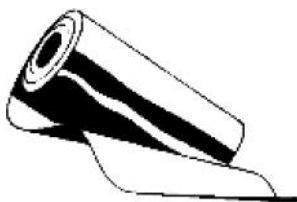
The SUMC Board of Trustees has been working with our building contractor to identify the problem areas and prepare a plan to repair roof, overheads, and posts as necessary. The figures are truly sobering.

Continuing to tear open portions of the roofs and then repairing damage bit by bit simply isn't feasible any more. It will cost too much and yield too little. It is time to re-roof our buildings, removing the current roofs, ripping out and replacing decayed wood as needed, and then putting on a brand-new roof. This will buy us 30 years or more of security from water damage overhead and preserve the life of our buildings.

The SUMC Administrative Council will meet on **Wednesday, December 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall**, when they will consider the proposal of the Board of Trustees to re-roof the office building as soon as possible (approximately \$25,000), using our recent \$10,000 gift plus savings from the sale of the back property some years ago to fund the project.

Trustees also recommends that re-roofing both the sanctuary building and Jones Hall should take place as soon as the necessary funds (approximately \$50,000-\$60,000) can be raised.

Please keep the Trustees and AdCouncil in your prayers as we wrestle with finances and property. Everyone's input is important—talk with the committee members and come to the AdCouncil meeting to share in the decisions.



*Thank*



*You!*







## Community Breakfast Schedule

There will be no Sunnyhills Community Breakfast as previously scheduled on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, however the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association will gather for a Holiday Potluck on December 7, 2011 in Jones Hall at 7:00PM. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

If you have any questions, please contact me through the church office.

Peace,

Guy Haas  
(408) 262-1486

## Christmas Eve 2011: Service of Lessons and Carols



On Christmas Eve we gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 to tell the stories and sing the carols of the joy of God incarnate in Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem. This family oriented service will be closed with candlelight, and followed by coffee and light refreshments. Special music is being planned by the choir and other musicians from the community. Bring a friend and be with us on this holy night. (Luminaries will be lit at 6:00 p.m.)

## Christmas Morning: Celebrating Baby Jesus Birthday!



Christmas morning finds each of us in various states of family, food preparation, present wrapping and opening, discovering the presents we have given and received. Our Sunday Christmas celebration underlines the “reason for the Season” – it’s about Jesus, God’s gift to all of us. Come in casual dress (you know you want to!). We’ll bless toys for children of all ages. Bring a friend and be prepared to enjoy a Birthday Cake for Jesus.

# Calendar

## December

- 1 Choir
- 4 Worship - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 5 Centering Prayer
- 8 Choir
- 9 Decking the Halls and Swapping Cookies
- 11 Worship – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 12 Centering Prayer
- 15 BEACON *Deadline*
- 15 Choir
- 18 Worship 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 19 Centering Prayer
- 22 Choir
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. (Lighting the Luminaries at 6:00 p.m.)
- 25 Worship—*Merry Christmas!*
- 25 Change-Over Sunday
- 26 Centering Prayer
- 29 Choir

## January

- 1 Worship
- 2 Centering Prayer
- 5 Choir
- 8 Worship
- 9 Centering Prayer
- 12 Choir
- 15 Worship
- 16 Lunch Bunch at the House of Lion
- 16 Centering Prayer
- 18 BEACON *Deadline*
- 18 Ad Council meeting
- 19 Choir
- 22 Worship
- 23 Centering Prayer
- 26 Choir Practice
- 29 Worship – Change Over Sunday
- 30 Centering Prayer

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

