



# 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://sunnyhillsumc.org)

January 2012

## *A New Year Prayer*

Holy Father,

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows: We praise You for Your unequalled greatness. Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more. To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them. To teach others to love by loving them. Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us. So that Love could be with us, and we could know You. That we could share Love with others. Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise, in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards, in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children. Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs, so that we may know You better and better. We rejoice in the world You loved into being. Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others. Forgive us for falling short this past year. We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown New Year knowing You will go with us. We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want. I say it again, we rejoice! In Jesus name, *AMEN*

### **Notes from the editor:**



- \*Lunch Bunch will gather again on **January 8, 2012** at **House of Liou**.
- \*The next **Ad Council** will be Wednesday, **January 18, 2012** at **7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall**.
- \***BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **January** issue **Thursday** - morning, **January 19, 2012**.
- \***January 29, 2012** is **Change-over Sunday**.



Dear Friends,

At our house, the tree is still up, and probably will be well into the first week or so of January.

At our house, the living room is still strewn with a few scraps of wrapping paper, a stray ribbon here and there, and the instructions for several new mechanical and electronic devices.

At our house, although we've still go cookies and pie, several of us are trying to get back to regular eating before the Christmas Carbs take up permanent residence.

And at our house, the manger of the baby Jesus is proudly displayed. In fact, it is the one thing in this list that is there year round, not just these few weeks of Christmas.

January has come, and the world tells us we should leave Christmas behind until next year, and move brightly on to the next holidays: President's Day? Valentines? Easter? Whatever the next big sale accompanies.

But in our homes, we know that Christmas - that is, the celebration of God-With-Us, Emmanuel come among us, isn't just for December, but for every day of the year. So that celebration doesn't get carried out with the trash during the last week of December. That celebration stays with us throughout the year.

Our challenge is to make sure we live as the people who celebrate the Love that came down at Christmas as the Baby who changed the world; that we live as the people who stand against the status quo and make following Jesus a foundation of our lives. Our challenge is to remember that we are the voice and actions on behalf of God-With-Us, and live each day as though our very lives, and the world depend on it. And they do.

So as you pack away the Christmas stuff, keep Christmas in the forefront of your hearts and minds as we go together into this brave new year.

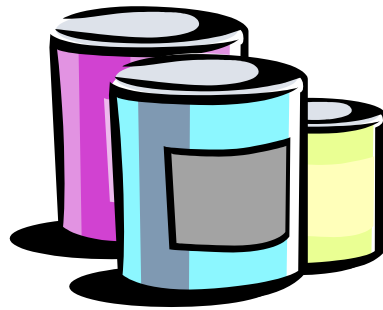
Blessings,

Pastor Shirley



► ***Happy New Year*** from the Choir! Start the year off by coming on down to the **Sanctuary** on **Thursdays** and join in the music and the fun. The singing starts at **6:30PM** and we always welcome more voices and laughs.

► **Ad Council** will have their next meeting, **Wednesday, January 18, 2012** in Jones Hall at **7:00p.m.** We hope to see you there.



► ***Thank you all for your participation in our toiletries for our Troops campaign. With the spirit in the air and the celebrations all around us can be difficult to remember the soldier literally thousands of miles away from home or the family of four in a shelter with limited food to eat this winter. Your donations mean sooo much. Change over Sunday is January 29, 2012. Thank you Again!!!***

► **Lunch Bunch**  
Are on the move and heading for The **House of Liou** on **January 8<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30AM**. See ya all there and lets celebrate the **Happy New Year**.



**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 01/01 Emil Sazon
- 01/10 Don Egbert
- 01/16 Vennie Holloway
- 01/16 Joyce Johnson
- 01/17 Eugenia Allen Egbert
- 01/17 Rebecca Marcus
- 01/22 Laurie Haas
- 01/23 Guy Haas



**Happy Anniversary!**

01/19 Anita and Reuben Valderrama

**Income and Expenses  
November 2011**

**INCOME**

	<i>November</i>
Offerings	\$ 5,292.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 4,407.81
Special Giving	\$ 236.56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,936.37</b>

**EXPENSES**

	<i>November</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,326.00
Operating expenses	\$ 2,188.18
Pastor & Staff support	\$ 5,095.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,609.93</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Cash on hand	\$49,967.98
Designated funds	\$21,268.67



## Community Breakfast Scheduled

The next Sunnyhills Community Breakfast will be held: Saturday, January 7, 2012. The Lion's Club will be presenting and the breakfast begins at 8:00AM in Jones Hall. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

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

Peace,

Guy Haas  
(408) 262-1486



Hello ...

I am sending an invitation out to you and your congregation on behalf of an exciting mission program we have developed here at Asbury UMC in Livermore. It is called the "Garden of Grace" and it is about 16 months old and involves raising free organic vegetables to serve our local food program – Open Heart Kitchen – which provides over 500 hot meals a day here every Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to six in our Fellowship Hall.

As part of the mission of the Garden leadership has developed a training program and hands-on instruction – as part of our ongoing project of expanding our Garden space and capacity to help others.

So, on Saturday January 14, there will be a combination training time and work effort designed to teach people about organic gardening and winter crop planting, and efforts to grow into a steadily expanding space on our five acres of property. Gathering at 8 a.m. on that Saturday we will enjoy coffee and get a tour of the current Garden effort, at 9 a.m. a training/information session will take place lasting approximately 60-90 minutes. The remainder of the day, until about 4 p.m. will involve various projects related to the training and to organic gardening and sustainable agriculture.

Experience in gardening is helpful but not essential – enthusiasm about making a difference in being stewards of the earth and producing food to feed the hungry is all that is required.

To learn more about Asbury's Garden of Grace go to our web site: [www.asburygardenofgrace.org](http://www.asburygardenofgrace.org). For more information or to make reservations as a mission team please contact Pastor Chuck Johnstone ([925](tel:9254471950)) [447-1950 ext. 1](tel:447-1950) or [chuckj@asburylive.org](mailto:chuckj@asburylive.org).

There is no cost – those wishing to come on Friday and be housed at the church – we have showers! – we can handle up to 12 sleeping over on Friday night.

There is a limit as to the number of participants that can be trained and managed so if you can ... pass this invitation on to the right folks in your parish and ask them to contact Pastor Johnstone as soon as possible. We hope to host such a Saturday event each month – so keep it in mind for later if this is too short a window of opportunity.

Blessings on you and your congregations in this season of Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Chuck Johnstone, Asbury UMC, Livermore

# Calendar

## January

- 1 Worship
- 2 Centering Prayer
- 5 Choir
- 8 Worship
- Lunch Bunch at House of Liou (11:30 a.m.)
- 9 Centering Prayer
- 12 Choir
- 13 Game-nite in the Sanctuary
- 15 Worship
- 16 Centering Prayer
- 18 Ad Council meeting
- 19 **BEACON Deadline**
- Choir
- 22 Worship
- 23 Centering Prayer
- 26 Choir Practice
- 29 Worship – Change Over Sunday
- Human Relations Sunday
- 30 Centering Prayer

## February

- 2 Choir
- 5 Worship
- Lunch Bunch – Location TBD
- 6 Centering Prayer
- 9 Choir
- 12 Worship
- 13 Centering Prayer
- 15 Ad Council
- 16 **BEACON Deadline**
- Choir
- 19 Worship
- 20 Centering Prayer
- 22 Ash Wednesday
- 23 Choir
- 26 Worship – Change-Over Sunday
- 27 Centering Prayer

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

