



# 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)

May 2012

## A Thousand Thanks

Mother's Day brings to mind  
The thousands of things you did for me  
that helped make me happier,  
stronger and wiser,  
because I had you as a role model.  
I'm grateful for all the times  
you healed my hurts  
and calmed my fears,  
so that I could face the world  
feeling safe and secure.  
I'm thankful for all you showed me  
about how to love and give--  
lessons that now bring  
so many blessings to me  
each and every day.  
Your sacrifices and unselfishness  
did not go unnoticed, Mom.  
I admire you, I respect you,  
I love you.  
And I'm so glad you're my mother!  
Happy Mother's Day!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

### Notes from the editor:

\*The **Lunch Bunch** will meet next at **Liou's House** – **May 6<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30 a.m.**

\*The next **Ad Council** is **Wednesday, May 9, 2012** at **7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall.**

\***BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **June** issue is **Thursday, May 17, 2012.**

\***May 28, 2012** is **Change-over Sunday.**





Dear Friends,

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church convenes this week (April 27 – May 4) in Tampa, Florida. General Conference is the denomination-wide administrative body that sets priorities, organizational structures and changes and/or additions to the Book of Discipline. It meets every 4 years – the Quadrennium. Although we may think of the UMC as an English-speaking, US based denomination, we are in fact world wide, with a growing number of delegates to the General Conference from Africa and Third World countries. Our own Annual Conference sends 6 delegates – three clergy and three laypersons – to General Conference, based on the membership of our Conference.

Over the past Quadreniums, General Conference has addressed a vast array of topics and issues. It is General Conference that articulates the denominational rules, Policies, procedures, theology and organization. Some items may be modified by local churches and Annual Conferences; some may be prayerfully ignored (at the ignorer's risk), but all are important and vital to who we are as the United Methodist church.

At the denominational website, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org), you can track each day's debates and decisions, watch important parts of the life and worship of the Conference, and stay involved with the life of the General Conference.

We'll talk about some of these issues, from the General Conference perspective and other perspectives over the coming weeks. Please keep our delegates and the Conference in your prayers.

Blessings,

*Pastor Shirley*



► **Choir** rehearsals are held in the **Sanctuary**, **Thursdays at 6:30PM**. Join Gwen and the rest of the choir as they learn new music and have a great time.

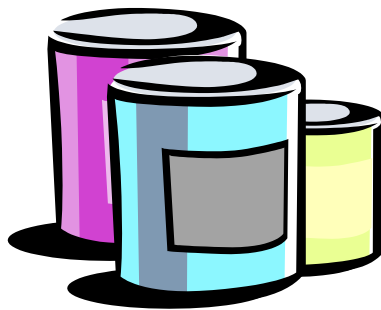
► **Lunch Bunch** will gather again, **May 6<sup>th</sup>** at **Liou's House**. Come for some great fellowship and yummy Chinese food. **Liou's** is located at **1245 Jacklin Road Milpitas, CA 95035**



► **The Trustees** want to **Thank Everyone** for coming out to the recent Lawn Party workdays. Many hands make short work. We can accomplish so much when we all pitch-in. The grounds look great. The **Trustees** meet next, **Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will take place at **Karen Schreifels'** and begins at **7:30PM**.

### ► **Administrative Council**

The next **Administrative Council** meeting is **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in **Jones Hall**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please come help others of the SUMC family plan for its future.



► **Change-over Sunday** is **May 27, 2012**. **Thank you again for supporting this important cause!!!** Your generosity is steadfast and appreciated.

## *Thinking About Our Future*

*The following entry in Robert Schnase's "Remember the Future" series of preparation for General Conference really spoke to me. It set me thinking about ways that Sunnyhills UMC needs to "put the big rocks first." What are the most important aspects of our ministry, where do we need to focus, in order to grow into God's plan for our future? You can read the full article online (listed at end). --Cliveden*

A story in [First Things First](#) (Stephen Covey, A. Roger Merrill, and Rebecca R. Merrill) describes a lesson about the use of time. The instructor fills a large jar with big rocks until he cannot possibly add another rock. He asks the audience if the jar is full. Everyone agrees that there is no more room for more rocks. Then he lifts a container of pebbles, and pours them into the same jar. The pebbles tumble loosely between the spaces left by the rocks, settling into place. Again, he asks if the jar is full. People are now wise to his ploy and are less willing to agree. Next, he lifts a container of sand and pours it into the jar, and people watch as the sand cascades through all the loose spaces between the rocks and pebbles. "Now, is the jar full?" The audience agrees that the jar is completely filled and has no room for anything else. Then he pours a glass of water into the jar, and the water trickles from top to bottom, saturating the sand and pebbles and rocks.

"What have we learned about the use of time?" he asks.

Someone says, "You can always squeeze one more thing into an already crowded schedule!"

"No," the instructor answers, "we've learned that if we don't place the big rocks in first, we can never squeeze them in later." The story is about priority (88–89).

I've discovered the truth of this for shaping my personal and professional time, and also for leading an organization and establishing agendas. Keeping the main thing the main thing requires intentionality.

What's the one activity or practice of yours that done consistently (and consistently well!) would have the greatest positive impact on your ministry? One pastor thought about this question and began to invite one person who had recently visited worship to lunch each week. The result was so positive and immediate in helping people assimilate into the congregation that he continued the practice for years.



A layperson committed to holding one conversation each Sunday with one of the youth of the church, and another committed to taking a new person each month to coffee to explore their interests in serving in outreach projects of the church. These are a few of the Big Rocks of forming community in Christ.

I wrote [\*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations\*](#) to answer the question, “What are the most important things for congregations to focus our work on to fulfill the mission of Christ?” Church councils spend inordinate amounts of time debating facilities, budgets, schedules, and planning more meetings. These are important, but we dare not focus on them to the exclusion of what is essential. If we do not repeat, deepen, and improve upon the basic fundamental practices of ministry—Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity—then our mission weakens a little more each year. The Five Practices are the fundamental activities that are so critical to the mission of the church that failure to perform them in an exemplary way leads to diminishing ministry. They are the Big Rocks of congregational ministry.

Our Missouri Conference leadership teams spent considerable time thinking about the purpose of the conference. What are the fundamental activities that are so critical to our mission as a conference that failure to perform them with excellence leads to decline? In our context, we focus on two critical functions: Congregational Excellence and Pastoral Excellence. Congregational Excellence means we focus on starting new congregations, exploring alternative forms of faith communities for college-age adults, and strengthening existing congregations. If we fail to start and strengthen congregations consistently, there will be no conference in the future. Pastoral Excellence involves systems for recruiting, developing, educating, training, supporting, and evaluating gifted clergy who are spiritually grounded, emotionally healthy, effective and fruitful leaders. Again, if we fail at this task, or fail to do it with excellence, there will be no conference in the future. These are the Big Rocks of conference ministry.

What about finances, pensions, insurance, boards, councils, meetings? What about missions, laity, social witness, youth, camping? All these are important, and in fact we have nationally-recognized mission initiatives as well as robust and effective ministries for laity and youth. Thousands of our laity and clergy participate in these each year. But they are directed at strengthening the ministries of our congregations because congregations are the most significant arena for making disciples, reaching youth, serving the world, and offering our social witness. The conference leads congregations to lead people to active faith in Jesus Christ.



Read more online: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/article/entry/2630>

## Happy Birthday Wishes to...

05/12 Leah Marcus  
05/14 Gwen Freeman  
05/15 Jo Roll  
05/18 Jack Spilman  
05/28 Vilma Ware



## and Happy Anniversary to...

05/21 Laurie and Rolf Haas  
05/17 Ria and Joe Feldman  
05/25 Jess and Lelaine Tanciango

## Income and Expenses March 2012

### INCOME

	<i><b>March</b></i>
Offerings	\$ 4,353.82
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 6,060.98
Special Giving	\$ 303.16
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	\$10,717.96

### EXPENSES

	<i><b>March</b></i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,332.32
Operating expenses	\$ 1,929.13
Pastor & Staff support	\$ 5,356.28
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	\$ 8,617.73

### FUND BALANCES

Cash (designated and undesignated)	\$55,853.22
Designated funds	\$25,912.31







### *Sharing an email I received from Operation, Care and Comfort:*

"We just finished our first quarter of 2012 and it was BUSY! We have mailed almost 27,000 pounds of care packages since January 1st and our program total is 855,000 pounds shipped overseas! We've had a lot of questions about the troops coming home, etc. Some of the troops are scheduled to return this year but we will still have tens of thousands in Afghanistan, as well as troops in Kuwait, Djibouti, Gitmo, Kyrgyzstan, and other areas we support. We also continue to support US Marines stationed at American Embassies in some countries, as well as US Navy battle groups in the Persian Gulf. So we still have a lot of work to do to support our troops overseas, not to mention the work we do here in Northern California to support troops, veterans, and their families. This year we have sent troops, vets and their families to SJ Sharks games, comedy shows, concerts, SF Giants, Oakland A's, SJ Earthquakes and more - all FREE! We have also hosted Welcome Home parties for troops returning from Afghanistan, and continue to support the families of those deployed, homeless vets, our wounded warriors and their families, and the families of the fallen."

### *Continuing with a note from one of the receiving Troops:*

"I received 2 boxes today. I walked in our tent and all my buddies were like "wooooww you got big boxes again" and I said yeah lets open it. We are so happy specially those young soldier's that never receive any packages. We truly appreciate what you guys doing for us. We still have 3 more months. I can't wait to see my family in california. I will definitely to visit you guys down there. Thank you so much." Dewey

May's Theme is Military Appreciation Month and Father's Day. A few requests include: Sunscreen, sunglasses, powdered drink mixes, Thank You and Father's Day cards for the troops and Father's Day cards for them to mail home. They also recycle printer ink cartridges and purchase supplies for OCC. Your attention and donations are most appreciated! Jo Roll

**Time for Scrip** Burst into bloom with scrip. You can use scrip for various grocery stores, along with Target, Walgreen's, or Bed, Bath and Beyond, just to name a few. Mom's special day is almost here! You can take her to a wonderful spring dinner with which no one has to cook or clean up afterwards. As the evenings get warmer, take a walk with your partner or the family for a Jamba Juice or Baskin Robbins Ice cream. Here's an idea... purchase the items that go in the 5-Gallon Bucket for ACS with Scrip. Buying Scrip makes a little money for your favorite church too. Check with Daislyn at church, or call her at [408-656-6023](tel:408-656-6023).



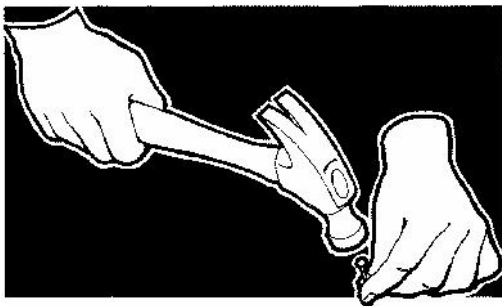
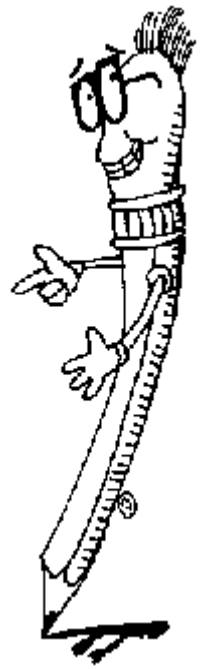
*Daislyn Pease*

# Financial Statements

Have you received your Giving Statement? Financial statements were mailed a few days before Easter. The statements cover gifts given to SUMC during the first quarter of 2012. Cliveden Chew Haas, our Financial Secretary, has set up a new accounting program, and we want to be sure that everything has been entered correctly. Please take a few minutes to look over your Giving Statement and let us know if there are any errors or omissions. Phone the church office at (408) 262-1486 with any corrections.

Unfortunately, we mailed the forms without a return address, so we won't receive back copies with bad addresses. If you have given gifts to Sunnyhills UMC during January-February-March but have not received a statement, please let us know so we can correct any errors in the mailing address.

Thanks for your help!



## Roof Repairs Are Underway

The contractors will start repairs to our Office Building in the next few weeks. The roof will be completely removed and replaced, and damaged support structures and wooden facings will be replaced. It will be noisy and messy, but we are thrilled to be able

to care for our buildings and prepare them for the years to come.

Later this summer, we plan to repaint the building. Repairs are also planned to smooth out the lifted concrete between the Sanctuary and the Butterfly Garden.

Please, be safe--watch out for falling debris and be careful where you walk. Tools and supplies may be piled in unexpected places!

We give thanks to God and to our members and friends whose generous gifts have made these repairs possible.

***Thank You!***





## Community Breakfast Scheduled



The next Sunnyhills Community Breakfast will be held **Saturday, May 5, 2012**. The Cool Cities Team will be presenting and the breakfast begins at **8:00AM** in **Jones Hall**. Topics of discussion include an update on the City's efforts to ban single-use bags and Styrofoam(TM) food containers, and what actions Milpitas should take to reduce our carbon pollution.

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

Peace,

Guy Haas (408) 262-1486

## Cleaning Bucket Collection – SUMC TO START COLLECTING!

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Office will collect cleaning buckets this year.

Cleaning buckets are United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) current priority for relief kits. Why? We know the floods are coming. They have been a frequent visitor to us and they are getting more aggressive and frequent than ever, and for this the buckets are the first organized response of our Church. **SUMC will be participating in this program with the goal of taking 4 full buckets to Annual Conference.**

We can stack them up by the thousands and truck them to the flood area quicker than the waters can recede. More important, the buckets are a unique way to help a large number of people in a very meaningful way. **Please sign-up to "Bring/fill a bucket" beginning May 6<sup>th</sup>, after worship.**

This year at Annual Conference Session we will focus on collecting cleaning buckets. We will have an 18-wheeler there to haul them to the UMCOR West Depot, so we can handle a lot of them! Our goal is for each church to bring four (4) buckets to ACS. **Let's help "Fill the Truck"!!!**

### Contents:

Each kit contains items costing about \$56 total.



- 1 five-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- 1 dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
- 1 roll heavy duty trash bags, 24 to 28 count (30-45 gallon): Remove from box)
- 1 bottle liquid concentrated household cleaner (such as Lysol®), 12 oz.
- 1 bottle liquid antibacterial dish soap (such as Dawn®), 25 oz.
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- 50 clothespins
- 1 scrub brush (remove packaging)
- 1 pair work gloves
- 2 pairs latex gloves (i.e. Playtex®)
- 7 sponges, assorted sizes
- 5 scouring pads

Some of you have other types of UMCOR kits already prepared. Send them to ACS too, but pack them in 5 gal. buckets and label them "mixed kit contents" on a paper label, taped to two sides and the lid.

We also will need some extra empty buckets for kits and kit materials that show up without a bucket. **June 10<sup>th</sup>** will be our special "Buckets for ACS" Sunday and Bar-B-Que. **Please mark your calendars now!!**

## *Calendar*

### May

- 3 Choir
- 6 Worship – Native American Sunday (Special Offering)  
Lunch Bunch at Liou's House
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 9 Ad Council
- 10 Choir
- 13 Worship – Mother's Day
- 14 Centering Prayer
- 16 Trustees Meeting at Karen Schreifels' House
- 17 BEACON *Deadline*

- 20 Worship
- 21 Centering Prayer
- 24 Choir
- 27 Worship – Change over Sunday
- 28 Centering Prayer
- 31 Choir

### June

- 3 Worship
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir
- 10 Worship ACS Bucket collection Sunday
- 11 End of Summer Bar B Que – 11:30AM
- 13 Centering Prayer
- 13 Ad Council
- 14 **BEACON *Deadline***
- Choir
- 17 Worship – Father's Day
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 20-23 Annual Conference
- 21 Choir
- 24 Worship
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 28 Choir

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

