



*December 2012*

# 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](http://sunnyhillsumc.org)

**Lord, this is my prayer, not only on Christmas Day  
But until I see You face to face, may I live my life this way:**

**Just like the baby Jesus, I ever hope to be,  
Resting in Your loving arms, trusting in Your sovereignty.**

**And like the growing Christ child, in wisdom daily learning,  
May I ever seek to know You, with my mind and spirit yearning.**

**Like the Son so faithful, let me follow in Your light,  
Meek and bold, humble and strong, not afraid to face the night.**

**Nor cowardly to suffer and stand for truth alone,  
Knowing that Your kingdom awaits my going home.**

**Not afraid to sacrifice though great may be the cost,  
Mindful how You rescued me from broken-hearted loss.**

**Like my risen Savior: The babe, the child, the Son,  
May my life forever speak of who You are and all You've done.**

**So while this world rejoices and celebrates Your birth,  
I treasure You, the greatest gift unequalled in Your worth.**

**I long to hear the same words that welcomed home Your Son,  
'Well done, good and faithful servant! Mark 25:21**

**And may heaven welcome others who will join with me in praise  
Because I lived for Jesus Christ not only Christmas Day**

**-- Mary Fairchild**

## Note from the editor:

- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – December 1, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.**
- Our **Joint Church Conference** at the Green Church – **December 1, 2012 at 9:00a.m.**
- **Advent Bible Study: Meaning and Practices of Christmas – December 3, 10, 17, 2012 in the Church office at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Tree and Sanctuary decorating, ornament making and Cookie Exchange – Friday December 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE: For the January issue – Tuesday morning, December 18, 2012.**





Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is behind us, Advent and Christmas stretch before us. No matter what I try, time just keeps on coming! (And frankly, that is probably good news. I recently saw the movie “Groundhog Day” again, and was reminded of the issues we might have if we did get to live the same day over and over again. I think I’d rather not!)

We do have this short lull between Thanksgiving and Advent this year. I’m trying to take advantage of it, unfortunately not for new things, but to recover my 2013 worship planning! As you may know, I take a week in August to lay out the worship calendar for the following year. This year was no exception: Advent through October 2013 all down on “paper” with worship themes, some hymns, links to good ideas, etc. Since I do very little on paper, it was actually a computer file. And yes, I managed to over write it, loose it, or destroy it. A file with the proper name was on my computer – but the contents were far from what I assembled!

The good news in getting to re-visit that week of planning is that in spending more time with worship for Advent this year, and the seasons of 2013, I am seeing different possibilities and new potentials that I think I missed previously.

And, as I revisit the year’s planning, I’m wondering what else I need to revisit – to see the new ideas, possibilities and potentials. Of course, Advent and Christmas come to mind.

As a family, although we don’t have our holiday traditions set in stone, I do make assumptions from year to year that lend a similarity to each year’s Advent and Christmas celebrations. Perhaps this year is a time for really looking at what we love and want to continue, and what we really might do without. Do we really need quite so many Christmas cookies and treats? I love baking, but can our calorie-budget really afford them? And, since my interfaith household celebrates not only Christmas, but also Hanukkah and Yule, what traditions can we adopt that honor each of the miracles of the season without downgrading the others?

As you look at your own Christmas traditions and plans, don’t forget to leave some space for just being. Sitting and enjoying your family, the tree and decorations, watching children, grandchildren and others play.

Finally, plan some time to spend with God. What is it that is new on your spiritual horizon this season? You’ll never know until you ask, and sit in silence and patience for an answer!

Blessings,

*Pastor Shirley*





**The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church**  
**Choir** welcomes everyone who loves to sing and have a great time while praising the Lord.  
**Come All Ye Faithful to the Sanctuary Thursdays at 6:30 PM as Good Christian Men (and Women) Rejoice!**

### **Ad Council**

The next **Administrative Council** is scheduled for Tuesday, **January 15, 2013 at 7:00PM** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information. All are welcome.



### **Special Offerings and Change-Over Sunday**

There will be special offerings taken this **Advent Season** to support the **Milpitas Food Pantry (December 16, 2012)** and the **San Jose Family Shelter (December 24<sup>th</sup>) Christmas Eve Worship**. Your gifts help turn a cold blistering season into a season of hope. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and support. The next **Change-Over Sunday is December 30, 2012**. Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity as you support folks and families during these difficult times. You are all a true gift.

### **The Trustees**

The **Trustees'** are scheduled to meet next, **Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at Karen Schreifels' house at 7:30PM.**



## 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 2012

<b>INCOME</b>	<b><i>October</i></b>
Offerings	\$3,781.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$4,906.29
Special Giving	\$ 576.01
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b>\$9,263.30</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b><i>October</i></b>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,219.74
Operating Expense	\$ 3,062.08
Pastor and Staff	\$ 6,932.08
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b>\$11,213.90</b>

## FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$32,065.00
Designated funds	\$17,613.02



## **Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, December 1, 2012, 8:00 a.m.**

The Milpitas City Manager, Tom Williams, will host the next breakfast. Against the combined background of a multi-year national recession and repercussions due to dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency, Milpitas continues to grapple with budgetary problems. Staffing has been reduced about 25% over the past few years. Services were cut and road maintenance deferred. Learn what Milpitas leadership plans to do now.

The breakfast, a 50-year old tradition in Milpitas, is sponsored by the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association and 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. in the Jones Hall at Sunnyhills United Methodist Church. The Milpitas Community Breakfast occurs the first (non-holiday) Saturday of the month except July and August.

## **Advent and Christmas at Sunnyhills**

### **Worship in Advent:**

December 2     First Sunday in Advent

Zachariah, Song of Faith



December 9     Second Sunday in Advent

The Angels, Songs of peace



December 16    Third Sunday in Advent

Mary, Song of Trust

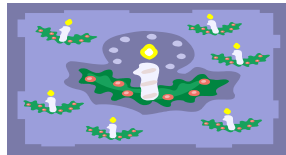


December 23    Fourth Sunday in Advent

Simeon, Song of Hope



December 24    Christmas Eve



The Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols, is a combined effort of the Episcopal congregations of St. Joseph and Holy Child, and Sunnyhills United Methodist. Each congregation will bring something of their own traditions, making it a special and holy time.

We will gather at 7:00pm, to share Christmas carols. The service will start at 7:30, followed by refreshments in Jones Hall, including a birthday cake for Baby Jesus, and gifts for all children present.



## ***The Holidays are upon us!***

Be an elf this year. Help Santa fill those stockings with gift cards through scrip. That way you make your loved ones happy, and you help your church as well.

**Get gift cards for a nice dinner out: Olive Garden/ Red Lobster, Black Angus, Applebee's, Claim Jumper, P.F. Changs, Outback, etc.**

Nice gifts are available too. Books through Barnes and Noble, all sorts of stuff through Amazon.com, itune, Toys R Us, AMC Theatre, Sees Candy, The Gap, Old Navy, Pottery Barn, TJMax/Marshalls, Bath and Body Works, Bed, Bath and Beyond.

Avoid the stores and the crowds. Do your shopping through scrip.

**And if you're planning that wonderful Christmas Dinner, scrip is available for Safeway, Savemart/Lucky, Marina Foods, Lion Food Center, Sprouts, and Whole Food.**

Get going by getting a scrip form at church from Daislyn, or by calling her to place your order at [408-656-6023](tel:408-656-6023).



**Sanctuary, Tree Decorating with Ornament Making and Cookie Exchange**



**And we'll probably sing some carols, too.**

**Come to the Sanctuary on Friday, December 7 at 7:00p.m. to join in the fun. We'll decorate the Christmas tree and the sanctuary. Pastor Shirley will have materials for crafting ornaments for your own tree or to give as gifts. Bring your favorite Christmas cookies or treats, and take home an equal number of cookies and treats from the varieties that will be brought by others. Of course, tasting is expected, and we'll have cider and other beverages.**





## A Study for Advent



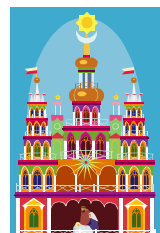
### **Advent and Christmas: Traditions, Origins and Practices**

This study continues Monday evenings, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. Join Pastor Shirley exploring the origins of Christmas and Advent, the contemporary observances and ways we might find more meaning and less commercialization during the holiday season.



### **Nativities from Around the World**

Sunday, December 16, bring your favorite crèche, nativity, or manger scenes to join a display of Nativities from around the world. We'll have several tables set up so that we might enjoy the creative expressions of the scene at the manger.



## *Calendar*

### December

- 1 Joint Church Conference @ Green Church  
Community Breakfast
- 2 Worship – First Sunday of Advent  
Student Sunday
- 3 Centering Prayer  
Advent Study in the Church Office
- 6 Choir Rehearsal  
Tree and Sanctuary Decorating with  
Ornament making and Cookie exchange
- 7
- 9 Worship – Second Sunday of Advent  
Centering Prayer
- 10
- 13 Advent Study in the Church Office  
Choir
- 16 Worship – Special Offering for the  
Food Pantry
- 17 Centering Prayer  
Advent Study in the Church Office
- 18 BEACON *Deadline*
- 20 Choir Rehearsal
- 23 Worship
- 24 Combined Christmas Eve Service – 7:00PM
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- 30 Worship

### January

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Community Breakfast
- 5
- 6 Worship
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 9 Trustees Meeting @ Karen Schreifels
- 10 Choir
- 13 Worship
- 14 Centering Prayer
- 15 Ad Council
- 16 BEACON *Deadline*
- 17 Choir Rehearsal
- 20 Worship

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