



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

February 2013

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.
His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.
He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.
So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

Note from the editor:

- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – February 2, 2013** at **8:00 a.m.**
- The next **Ad Council** meeting is scheduled for **February 20, 2013** at **7:00PM** in **Jones Hall.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **March** issue – **Thursday morning, February 21, 2013.**
- **Lunch Bunch** will meet next at **La Milpa, Sunday March 10, 2013** at **11:30 a.m.**
- **The Trustees'** will meet next at **Karen Schreifels' house, Wednesday – March 13, 2013** at **7:30PM.**



(See Page 4 for further calendar details)



Dear Friends,

I love the rhythm of the Christian calendar: Advent, Christmas, Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Easter – well, you know how it goes. And even loving the rhythm, the seasons sneak up on me.

Lent – the 40 days before Easter (not counting the Sundays) begins on February 13. Not as early as a couple of years ago, but not late in the scheme of things either.

You may be wondering why it is that Lent and Easter are so early this year. When I was in 9th grade Algebra, I learned from my teacher that Easter was always the *first Sunday* after the *first full moon* after the *vernal (spring) equinox*. As complex as that sounds, it is pretty straightforward, and if it was really kept in that way, it would mean that it could be calculated independently anywhere in the world. But the formula isn't exactly right. If you *REALLY* want to know what affects the date of Easter, go to:

<http://christianity.about.com/od/faqhelpdesk/qt/whyeasterchange.htm>

You also may remember that Lent is not a biblical observation, but was instituted for prayer, meditation and preparation for Easter at a time when Easter was the day converts were baptized and confirmed into the Church. The time period – 40 days – IS biblical; 40 days of rain, 40 years wandering in the desert, 40 days in the wilderness. Whenever you run across that number – 40 – in scripture, watch for things to change. Our own Lenten observances can be like that as well: time to reflect, pray, and prepare for a “new” time living our faith in the world.

During Lent this year, I'll be using Brian McLaren's *Naked Spirituality* as the basis for my messages. I'll be looking at spirituality, religion and ritual as the growing edges of our faith, how they interact, support one another, and challenge us in our daily lives. You can read about that series, as well as a Sunday Lenten study, and our Lent vesper suppers elsewhere in this Beacon.

I'll see you on Sunday!

Pastor Shirley

Worship in Lent, 2013

Ash Wednesday come-as-you-are Communion and Imposition of Ashes

February 13th 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

An informal time for prayer and meditation, Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. Come for as long as you'd like, leave when you are ready.

Thursday Evening Soup and Vespers

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays: February 21 & 28

March 7, 14 and 21

Our third year of Thursday evening simple suppers: soup, bread, fruit; and evening vespers using the Haugen Holden Evening Vespers. Sign up in the Sanctuary to bring food; come whether or not you bring food. Stay for choir!

Lenten Study

Sundays 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Embracing a Life of Meaning with Kathleen Norris. This DVD based study leads us through discussions on “what matters most” Belief, the Bible, Community, Place and Us. The participant’s workbook is \$12.95. Sign up in the sanctuary so your workbook may be ordered in advance.

Sunday Mornings During Lent

Sunday Worship – 9:30 a. m.

Pastor Shirley is shaping our Lenten worship around Bruce McLaren’s *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*. This will dovetail with, but not duplicate, our Lenten study.



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir
loves to learn new music, welcome new-comers and sing, sing, sing with all their hearts. Come join them **Thursdays at 6:30PM.**

Ad Council

The next **Administrative Council** is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 20, 2013 at 7:00PM** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Change-Over Sunday

You give a full bouquet of love and support every time you contribute to the offering for Change-over Sunday. Every penny you contribute makes a difference. And remember, on every piece of money there are those four very important little words. **“In God We Trust”**. The gift with two purposes. Share the gifts, Share the Trust. The next Change over Sunday is **February 24th**.

The Trustees

The **Trustees’** are scheduled to meet next, **Wednesday, March 13th** at Karen Schreifels’ house at **7:30PM.** .



Happy Birthday Wishes to:

02/01 Jeremy Mark Westover
 02/02 Jess Tanciango
 02/21 Robert Roll



Happy Anniversary!!

02/14 Jo and Bob Roll
 02/16 Pastor Shirley and Jon Marcus

**Income and Expenses
 December 2012**

INCOME	<i>December</i>
Offerings	\$6,981.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$5,579.70
Special Giving	\$ 960.00
TOTAL	\$13,520.70

EXPENSES	<i>December</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,242.90
Operating Expense	\$ 3,032.59
Pastor and Staff	\$ 6,802.12
TOTAL	\$11,077.61

FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$35,433.10
Designated funds	\$17,343.70

**Income and Expenses
 2012**

INCOME

Offerings	\$56,920.79
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$64,826.18
Special Giving	\$ 3,213.59
TOTAL	\$124,960.56

EXPENSES

Mission & Outreach	\$ 14,216.30
Operating Expense	\$ 32,784.97
Pastor and Staff	\$ 68,926.02
TOTAL	\$115,927.29



A Word from Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have recently celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace and this Monday we will celebrate a great man of faith, a modern day prophet who challenged the status quo to work towards a non-violent society. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in a harmonious society in which all men and women were created equally. I have also been reflecting on the fact that we are moving towards making Dr. King's dream a reality. This Monday, on the federal holiday that bears his name, we will witness the second inauguration of the nation's first African American President, Barack H. Obama.

As we celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace, I have also been saddened over the past months and weeks as we have witnessed mass shootings in a Colorado movie complex and a Connecticut elementary school. Even in our annual conference, the community of Taft was stunned by a school shooting and several of our communities grieve under horrendously high murder rates. I've also been struck by the public discourse and how our government leaders and society grapple with steps on how we will collectively move forward in the face of these tragic events. The discussions have been focused around gun control and mental illness.

As I reflect on how we, as a Church body move forward, I am challenged by the Prince of Peace, Jesus' words, in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons and daughters of God." I also hear the voice of Dr. King saying, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

I recently received an e-mail from one of our pastors here in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. The e-mail reminded me that Jesus, Dr. King, and our Wesleyan heritage would call upon the Church and our leaders to be not only a people of faith, but a people of action. Our faith is an active faith which calls us to move beyond the walls to do something to positively shape the places where we find ourselves in mission and ministry!

During this season, as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King, I challenge us to be a people of action. One of the ways we can be actively involved is by being people of faith who continually push and challenge our government leaders to make decisions that positively affect the least of these.

Contact information for your federal elected officials can be found at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov. A quick Google search will help you locate your local elected officials.

As we enter 2013, I challenge you to continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in your community. I challenge you to continue to make a difference in the lives of folks in your communities and around the world through our connectional system.

May the God of hope, who has sustained us throughout generations, continue to empower you in mission and ministry as you live out the challenge of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, and work towards Dr. King's dream of a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warner H. Brown, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop

Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, February, 2013 - 8:00 a.m.

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.



Valentine's Day is almost upon us.

Think of your loved ones through scrip this Valentine's day. You're sure to find something he or she will love. There's Bath and Body Works, AMC movie tickets, clothes at TJ Marshalls, Gap/Old Navy. Or there's fine dining: Black Angus, California Pizza Kitchen, Cheese Cake Factory, PF Chang's, Applebee's, etc. Make Sunnyhills your Valentine this year by purchasing scrip for your loved ones.

Daislyn Pease¹

11111111 cell: 408-656-6023



SUMC will be collecting a special offering, Sunday – February 24, 2013 to benefit the African American College fund.

Calendar

February

- 2 Community Breakfast
- 3 Worship
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir Rehearsal
- 10 Worship
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 13 Lent Begins 4-6:00PM Imposition of Ashes
- 14 Choir
- 17 Worship
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 20 Ad Council
- 21 BEACON *Deadline*
- 21 Choir Rehearsal
- 24 Worship - Special Offering for the African American College Fund
- 25 Centering Prayer
- 28 Choir

March

- 2 Community Breakfast
- 3 Worship
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir Rehearsal
- 10 Worship
- 10 Lunch Bunch at La Milpa
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 13 Lent Begins
- 13 Trustees meeting at 7:30PM
- 13 Karen Schreifels House
- 14 Choir
- 17 Worship
- 18 Centering Prayer
- 20 Ad Council
- 21 BEACON *Deadline*
- 21 Choir Rehearsal
- 24 Worship – Palm Sunday -Change Over Sunday

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