



April 2013

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

Because He Lives

(excerpts of)

Faith Restored

by William Crosswell Doane

(After the resurrection)...Christ is seen to be changed, but none the less He is also seen to be essentially the same. Nothing has been left in the grave though all has been transfigured. He is the same, so that the marks of the Passion can become sensibly present to the doubting Thomas; the same, so that He can eat of the broiled fish which the disciples had prepared; the same, so that one word spoken with the old accent makes Him known to the weeping Magdalene; the same, so that above all expectation, and against the evidence of death, the Apostles could proclaim to the world that He who suffered upon the cross had indeed redeemed Israel; the same, in patience, in tenderness, in chastening reproof, in watchful sympathy, in quickening love." And this is the mystery, the marvel, the truth, the triumph, the greatness and the glory of Easter."

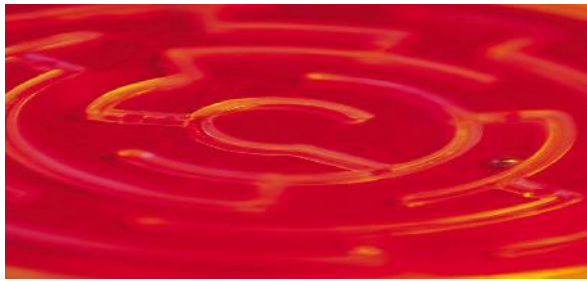


Note from the editor:

- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – April 6, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.**
- The next **Ad Council** meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00PM in Jones Hall.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **May** issue – **Thursday morning, April 18, 2013.**
- **The Trustees'** will meet next at **Karen Schreifels' house, Wednesday – May 8, 2013 at 7:30PM.**



(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Dear Friends,

I'm writing on Wednesday of Holy Week, in a state of what I can best describe as "spiritual bliss." Two happenings of the last week account for my state of being:

Last Saturday, I started working on our Community Labyrinth. Many of you haven't heard much about it: the project is one I've talked about, but couldn't really get my arms around or a committee around until I actually started the building process. So, on Saturday, armed with surveyors flags, bright pink tape and a couple of measuring ropes, I laid out the design on the flat spot in the yard just in front of the sanctuary. A valuable suggestion from a member of Holy Child sent me to get some marking paint, so when the flags and pink tape are removed, we can still see the path until all the border stones are in place. The next steps are for stones and bricks to be installed on the marked border, buried so they can be mowed over. I hadn't expected to start that process on Saturday, but finally decided that starting that process would give others a glimpse of the finished project.

On Sunday, folks from all of our congregations (Sunnyhills, St. Joseph, Holy Child, and Santa Maria) came to see – many taking the opportunity to walk the labyrinth. I think the kids especially enjoyed running the path! Over the next few weeks, work will continue. You all (and all the members of our tenant congregations), are invited to come and "plant" a stone or brick. There are some already placed along the borders but not yet buried. Or, bring a stone or brick from your home to add to the Labyrinth. The borders are about 4" wide. If your stone or brick is bigger than that, install it on the outermost round so that the pathways aren't obstructed. Even if digging in the dirt isn't your cup of tea, come buy and walk the Labyrinth. It is a wonderfully peaceful and meditative practice!

Sunday evening last week was the first jointly led worship service at the Elmwood Correctional Facility. Frs. Ernie Boyer and Ruth Casipit Paguio (St Joseph and Holy Child) and I, along with 7 congregation members sang with, listened to Ernie's message, prayed with and served communion to more than 50 men currently incarcerated from Elmwood. I will be honest that it took me completely off guard what I would receive from this service. The men shared sincere and heart-rending prayer requests, had cogent and wise comments on the Gospel lesson, and were thankful to receive communion. We return on Easter Sunday for our next service at Elmwood. Our regular schedule is the fourth Sunday of every odd-numbered month, and every 5th Sunday in the month. We just got lucky that our first two services were a week apart, and on Palm Sunday and Easter, too! Please keep the leadership team in your prayers as we continue in this important, ecumenical ministry.

Sunday is Easter – the continuing celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Our Sunnyhills schedule is published here in the Beacon. Also consider joining the Genesis UMC in their first worship service returning to Milpitas at 2:00p.m. Their new home is at 210 S. Main Street (previously Valley Springs Church). Bishop Brown will preach.

Blessings on all of you this Holy Week and throughout the Easter Season,

Pastor Shirley



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir

Choir rehearsals have resumed at their regularly scheduled time of **6:30 PM, Thursday evenings** in the **Sanctuary**. Drop on by and join on in as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Ad Council

The next **Administrative Council** is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 17, 2013 at 7:00PM** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Change-Over Sunday – April 28, 2013

“Times seem to be getting better”, at the same time, there seems to be more in need everywhere you turn. Thanks again to you all for your commitment to continuing to make it better.

The Trustees

The **Trustees’** are scheduled to meet next, **Wednesday, May 8th** at **Karen Schreifels’** house at **7:30PM**. Please see page 6 for further information from your Trustees.



**Easter Sunday
March 31, 2013**

- 6:30 Easter Sunrise**
- 7:30 Potluck breakfast**
- 9:30 Easter Celebration**



Happy Birthday Wishes to:

04/10 Janyce Singleton
04/19 Jennifer Touchton
04/27 Jon Marcus



**Income and Expenses
February 2013**

INCOME	<i>February</i>
Offerings	\$3,625.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$4,827.09
Special Giving	\$ 220.81
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$8,672.90

EXPENSES	<i>February</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,153.28
Operating Expense	\$ 4,154.62
Pastor and Staff	\$ 4,589.49
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 9,897.39

FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$35,276.18
Designated funds	\$17,979.15



Sunnyhills Community Labyrinth



Labyrinths have been found throughout history and the world in diverse shapes and sizes. Little bits of archeological facts substantiate certain dates, we really do not know the origins of the meandering path or how labyrinths were originally used. The Labyrinth is a unicursal path that leads to a center, both physically and metaphorically, combining the imagery of the circle and spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The labyrinth can represent a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools.

The Sunnyhills Community Labyrinth, built in just in front of the Sunnyhills UMC Sanctuary, is based on the classical or seventh circuit labyrinth.. This is an ancient is thought to be more than 3,000 years old. An existing rock carving in Sardinia dates from 2500 – 2000 BCE. Also known as the Cretan Labyrinth, this design was found on Cretan coins, and on a clay tablet from Pylos, Greece dated at 1200 BCE.

Today, Labyrinths are most often used in a spiritual manner. They can create a heightened awareness of the human condition and aid psychological and spiritual growth. To build a labyrinth is to create a sacred space. To walk a labyrinth is to imbue it with power and meaning. The more a labyrinth is used the more powerful it becomes as a symbol of transformation.

There is no right way to walk a labyrinth. You only have to enter and follow the path. However, your walk can encompass a variety of attitudes. It may be joyous or somber. It might be thoughtful or prayerful. You may use it as a walking meditation.

Adults are often serious in the labyrinth. Children most often run in and out as fast as they can in a playful manner. Some general guidelines for walking a labyrinth are:

1. Focus: Pause and wait at the entrance. Become quiet and centered. Give acknowledgment through a bow, nod, or other gesture and then enter.
2. Experience: Walk purposefully. Observe the process. When you reach the center, stay there and focus several moments. Leave when it seems appropriate. Be attentive on the way out.
3. Exit: Turn and face the entrance. Give an acknowledgement of ending, such as "Amen."
4. Reflect: After walking the labyrinth reflect back on your experience. Use journaling or drawing to capture your experience.
5. Walk often

Many Christian traditions us a “threefold” path when walking the Labyrinth: Release, Receive and Integrate.

1. Release. From the entrance the goal is to "let go." Release and empty yourself of worries and concerns. Walk with your palms down to symbolize releasing..
2. Receive. At the center seek illumination, insight, clarity, and focus. Spend a moment or more in a receptive, prayerful, meditative state.
3. Integrate. Walk with your palms up to symbolize empowerment and taking ownership. The path out is a time of becoming grounded and integrating insight. Allow yourself to become energized (spiritually and/or physically) to begin making what was received manifest in the world.

Construction and Completion

The Community Labyrinth is a work-in-progress. It has been laid out, and many of the border stones have been installed. Many more are needed. Please come, whether or not you can bring a stone or brick. A shovel and hand-mattock can be found near the sanctuary door, and many stones have been laid on the path, waiting for someone to install them. Stones and bricks about 4 inches wide can be placed anywhere along the path; larger ones should be on the outermost border. Dig a hole large and deep enough that your stone or brick will just clear ground level. Push dirt around it and stamp it down so that it stays in place. Put the rest of the dirt that you dug out under the Cedar tree nearby. Say a prayer, spend a moment of silence, walk the labyrinth, or whatever will sustain you. You may want to bring a stone or brick that you to mind of an event, a friend, a cause, etc. The office is open from 2:00 – 6:00 on Tuesday through Thursday if access to a restroom is needed.

Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, April 6, 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.

DON'T FORGET SCRIP

Just a reminder to consider scrip for your purchases. It helps your church and you don't need to buy anything you don't use. I'm sure you all buy groceries. How about using it at Safeway, Nob Hill or Savemart (which is also good at Lucky's). Or how about taking your loved to a dinner at one of the restaurants that are available: Applebees, Olive Garden/Red Lobster, Black Angus, Cheese Cake Factory, etc. there's lots more: just take a look at a scrip form, usually available Sundays in the back of the sanctuary.

Thanks,

Daislyn Pease

cell: [408-656-6023](tel:408-656-6023)



Spring Garden Workdays to Resume Soon!

Garden Workdays will be held Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. beginning April 2, 2013 The flowers are blooming, the grass is growing like crazy, and we have several areas prepared last fall to replant. Drop on by the gardens and join others as we “Spring Forward” into the “season of rebirth”.

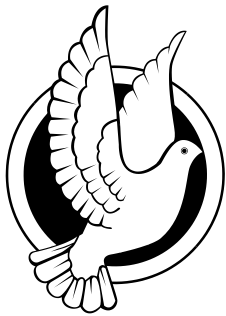
Your Trustees



New Refrigerator Donated for Jones Hall

A great Big **“THANK YOU!!!”** goes out to Marley and Jack Spilman for donating their spare refrigerator. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The refrigerator has been installed in Jones Hall and is operating beautifully. Thanks again!

An additional **“THANKS”** goes out to Guy Haas and Karen Schreifels for retrieving the refrigerator from the Spilman’s and delivering it to Jones Hall. It seems as though those extra trips to the Gym are paying off. Your efforts were awesome and gratefully appreciated.



SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Our new Spiritual Life Committee (Cliveden, Laine, Lola, and Mary) is working diligently to help connect those members and friends we haven’t seen lately back into the fabric of our church family. Please keep us in your prayers as we search for God’s path for our church. Please contact Cliveden (408/262-5250) or any committee member about housebound, ill, or non-attending members and friends. Each is sorely missed! (Reprint)

Crafting Christians



OK, we need a better name! A short discussion last week led to the formation of a new small group ministry: An informal gathering in the sanctuary to work on hand-projects, chat, lift our concerns and joys and pray together. Expect to see folks bringing needle-felting, knitting, crochet, card-making, spinning, weaving, cross stitch and any number of other portable crafts and endeavors. With the group gathered, if you are having a problem with your project, one of the rest of us can surely help you out. Or teach you a new craft. We’re brand new, and the group will form and find direction from those who come. So join us, Thursdays beginning April 11, from 3:00-4:30 pm in the Sanctuary. If you need to arrive after 3, or leave before 4:30, remember, this is a very informal group! Come and join us for as much or as little time as you have!

Calendar

April

- 1 Centering Prayer
- 4 Choir Rehearsal
- 7 Worship
- 8 Centering Prayer
- 11 Choir
- 14 Worship
- 15 Centering Prayer
- 17 Ad Council
- 18 BEACON *Deadline*
- 21 Choir Rehearsal
- 21 Worship
- 22 Centering Prayer
- 25 Choir
- 28 Worship – Change –over Sunday
- 29 Centering Prayer

May

- 4 Community Breakfast
- 5 Worship Spl. Offering for Native American Ministries
- 6 Centering Prayer
- 8 Trustees' meeting at Karen Schreffels'
- 9 Choir Rehearsal
- 12 Worship
- 13 Centering Prayer
- 16 Choir
- 19 Worship
- 20 Centering Prayer
- 23 BEACON *Deadline*
- 26 Choir Rehearsal
- 27 Worship–Palm Sunday -Change Over Sunday Memorial Day. Centering Prayer will not meet today.

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