



September 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*

## A Prayer for Back to School (by Rachel Wojnarowski)

Our Heavenly Father,  
In a season of life when parenting decisions  
seem to loom larger than life itself,  
we humbly ask for your guidance.

While the shoes still smell new...  
and the pencils point crisply,  
our hearts sense the need  
for a stronger connection with your love  
and a deeper reliance on your grace.

Would You help us to remember that  
You know every thought we have as a parent?  
Would You remind us that the feeling of having  
our hearts walk around outside our bodies  
is one You are ever so familiar with?

And would You provide the wisdom from above  
as we walk this new ground for a new school year?  
We praise Your name for doing so.  
In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen.

### Note from the editor:

- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – September 7, 2013 at 8:00 a.m..**
- **There will be a Trustees' meeting Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at Karen Schreifels' at 7:30PM.**
- **Ad Council** will meet again, **Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Jones Hall.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **October** issue – **Thursday morning, September 19, 2013.**



(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Dear Friends,

This month I've started on a new adventure, the Academy for Spiritual Formation. The Academy is an Upper Room ministry (a division of the United Methodist Church). We will meet together at Mercy Center in Burlingame once a quarter for the next two years. If the first week is predictive, it will be a challenging, deepening, humbling and enlightening experience. My hope for the Academy experience is to be able to better articulate my experience and vision of God in the world and within ourselves, so to be a better guide for Sunnyhills. So far, that hope seems attainable.

As you probably know, I've taken up another adventure in the last year: I'm studying martial arts at Ascension Martial Arts in San Jose. I've advanced to Green Belt in Kung Fu, Second Level in T'ai Chi, and have just begun to advance in Classical PaQua.

I'm not telling you this to brag about my newly found physical fitness (though I recommend it highly!), nor the Academy's reading requirement, (think graduate school.) I'm sharing this because although I really don't like change, there aren't a lot of healthy alternatives. In general, if we aren't moving with change, we stagnate.

Unfortunately, at Sunnyhills we're stagnating. We are doing a fine job keeping the buildings in operational shape – though we're going to have to step up to roofs pretty soon. Our budget is sound, and thanks to your giving and a solid group of organizations who use our facilities, we're able to keep up with expenses.

But I fear for our spiritual health. Worship attendance is poor. Almost all the visitors we've had in the last few years find us on the internet, or because they are in the neighborhood. Only one of our long-term visitors-now-constituents has been invited by anyone in our community. I wonder what that says about us, that visitors who "happen upon us" tend to stay for awhile, but for whatever reason we don't think enough of our selves to invite others.

I ask you to think and pray about what change needs to look like at Sunnyhills. Is it time to band with other congregations so that the time spent on upkeep of our property is not the major "ministry" of our people? Is there another direction that God is nudging you - no matter how far outside the way we've always done things? Is it time for...??

Think and pray on these things – and tell me about your thoughts.

Blessings,

*Pastor Shirley*



**The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church**  
**Choir** As choir practices return on the 5<sup>th</sup> of **September**, drop on by the **Sanctuary** beginning at **6:30PM** to join in the celebration. The 2013-2014 season will begin and we will once again hear the choir's beautiful voices wafting through the campus, **Thursdays**, practicing for Sunday Worship. Come, Join, Enjoy, Enhance.

**Ad Council**

The **Administrative Council** will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, September 18, 2013** in **Jones Hall**. For further information, please contact Bob Roll. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Your opinions matter and your ideas are invaluable as we plan our churches' programs and activities for the coming months.



**Change-Over Sunday**

The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **September 29, 2013**. Back to School can be very expensive. Your continued support may enable some families to provide the Back to School supplies their children need. Thanks again for helping to provide good food for these families.

**The Trustees**

The Trustees will meet again **Wednesday – September 11, 2013** at **7:30** at **Karen Schreifels' house**.



**Happy Birthday Wishes to...**

- 9/5 Eric Cruz
- 9/14 Ria Feldman
- 9/15 Erin Cruz
- 9/15 Rolf Haas
- 9/17 Anna Phan
- 9/21 Karen Schreifels
- 9/22 Warren Scott
- 9/25 Isak Larsen
- 9/26 Dee Bragg



**Happy Anniversary!!**

- 09/15 Ann and Fred Zeise
- 09/21 Aida and Pablo Cruz
- 09/23 Emil and Laine Sazon

**Income and Expenses  
July 2013**

<b>INCOME</b>	<i>July</i>
Offerings	\$4,202.15
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$5,378.14
Special Giving	\$ 118.56
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$9,698.85

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<i>July</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,252.68
Operating Expense	\$ 2,888.45
Pastor and Staff	\$ 6,422.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$10,563.64

**FUND BALANCE**

Cash on hand	\$31,247.90
Designated funds	\$16,902.49



## ***What We Talk About When We Talk About God?***

Maybe, you have a clear picture in your mind of who and what God is when you refer to God in discussion, or when you pray. “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...” or perhaps a different image. Rob Bell, who also wrote *Love Wins* has written another book with many, many questions on the identity, vision, scope and mystery of God. I’ll be using some of this book for a sermon series in September. We’ll also have an after-worship discussion of the book, starting on September 22 and continuing for 6 or 7 weeks.

The book is available at many local bookstores, as well as from Amazon, both in print (\$18.08) and a Kindle (\$12.74) version. If you’d like me to order a print copy for you, drop a note (call, email, etc) the office by September 15th and I’ll have it ready for you the first week we meet.

## **Please Note:**

Centering Prayer will not meet, Monday – September 2, 2013 due to the Labor Day Holiday.



### ***Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, September 7, 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, 355 Dixon Road (across from Weller School playground). The Milpitas Community Breakfast occurs the first (non-holiday) Saturday of the month except July and August. The next Breakfast will be September 7, 2013, when we will kick-off the new program year. For more information, please call 263-8942. We hope to see you next Saturday.



**The Northern San Jose District Church Extension Society** would like to invite you to our annual event and celebration on October 5, 2013. Mark your calendar now because you'll not want to miss this informative event.

Rev. Dr. Bener B. Agtarap, Conference Superintendent for Congregational Vitality for the California Nevada Annual Conference, as keynote speaker will speak on "Some of the Ways to Accomplish the Goals of Our Conference-wide Strategy for Renewal, Revival and Reach".

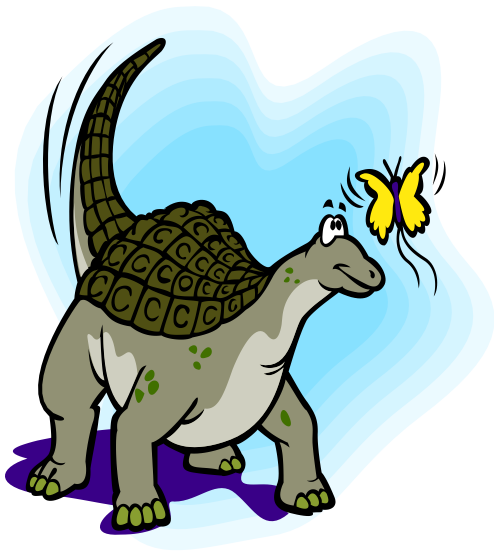
Come celebrate with us and learn how your ministries and programs can be supported and enhanced through grants from this resource. Discover resources and be inspired to reach into new ministries for your communities through the stories of others as we hear how the 2013 recipients of our support have put these funds into action and reached into new ministries and outreach.

**All are invited:** Pastors, Members, Committee Chairs, Youth Pastors, just to name a few. Bring your ideas, get new ideas.

**When:** Saturday, October 5, 2013 We'll gather for a light breakfast at 9:30. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Genesis UMC, 220 S. Main St, Milpitas, CA 95035

Bring as many interested parties from your church as you like. Please register at: <https://calnev-reg.brapp.com/NSJCES>) If you have questions, contact Gwen Freeman at 408-499-1921 or [gwenffreeman@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenffreeman@yahoo.com) and we look forward to **SEEING YOU ALL ON OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>!!**



## Butterfly Garden Workdays

**Tuesday Evenings  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

*Plenty of chores  
big and small  
to spruce up the garden!*

**More information:  
Cliveden & Guy Haas  
(408) 262-5250**



### **Be "scripulous!"**

See there; I created a new word. Well, scrip is back in full swing. If you haven't already gotten your youth new outfits, backpacks, notebooks, etc, for school, take a look at the scrip form.

You'll see there's Staples, Target, Gap/Old Navy, Sears, Kohl's, Macy's, and more, for clothes and basic supplies. And you could take your smart student(s) for dinner at any number of places. Or just get them some Jamba Juice or Cold Stone scrip for a treat after hard days at school. You could even indulge yourself and make it a family affair! And, if your student is driving to school or college, there are gas cards for Arco, Chevron and Shell stations. Contact Daislyn at [408-656-6023](tel:408-656-6023), or pick up a form at church.

**Daislyn Pease**

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

# Calendar

## September

- 1 Worship
- 3 Butterfly Gardening
- 5 Kairos Crafters
- 7 Choir rehearsals resume
- 8 Community Breakfast
- 9 Worship
- 10 Centering Prayer
- 11 Butterfly Gardening
- 12 Trustees' meeting at Karen Schreffels'
- 13 Choir Rehearsal
- 15 Worship
- 16 Centering Prayer
- 17 Butterfly Gardening
- 18 Ad Council
- 19 Beacon *Deadline*
- 22 Choir Rehearsal
- 22 Worship
- 22 Book Study
- 23 Centering Prayer
- 24 Butterfly Gardening
- 26 Choir Rehearsal
- 29 Worship
- 30 Book Study
- 30 Centering Prayer

## October

- 1 Butterfly Gardening
- 3 Choir Rehearsal
- 6 Worship – World Communion Sunday
- 7 Book Study
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 8 Butterfly Gardening
- 10 Choir Rehearsal
- 13 Worship
- 13 Book Study
- 14 Centering Prayer

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