



The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Shirley Macemon

Church Office
Visit us on the Web!

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October 2013

Halloween Comes to America

Halloween symbols (witches, black cats, pumpkins, candles, masks, parties and pranks) appeared in the U.S. during the late 1800's. In 1848, millions of Irish emigrants poured into America as a result of the potato famine. With this sudden influx of people, the holiday of Druidism found its new home on alien shores. "Proudly Celtic, they called Halloween Oidche Shamhna ('Night of Samhain'), as their ancestors had, and kept the traditional observances" [Common Boundary, Sep./Oct. 1993, p. 31].

Jack-o-lantern The Jack-o-lantern is the festival light for Halloween and is the ancient symbol of a damned soul. Originally the Irish would carve out turnips or beets as lanterns as representations of the souls of the dead or goblins freed from the dead.

When the Irish emigrated to America they could not find many turnips to carve into Jack O' Lanterns but they did find an abundance of pumpkins. Pumpkins seemed to be a suitable substitute for the turnips and pumpkins have been an essential part of Halloween celebrations ever since.

Jack-o-lantern Pumpkins were cut with faces representing demons and was originally intended to frighten away evil spirits. It was said that if a demon or such were to encounter something as fiendish looking as themselves that they'd run away in terror, thus sparing the houses dwellers from the ravages of dark entities. They would have been carried around the village boundaries or left outside the home to burn through the night.

Bats, owls and other nocturnal animals, also popular symbols of Halloween, were originally feared because people believed that these creatures could communicate with the spirits of the dead. christianstories.com

Just a few tidbits to think about. Have a FUN, SAFE and SANE Halloween with your children and grandchildren!

Note from the editor:

- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday – October 5, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.**
- **Ad Council** will meet again, **Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 7:00PM in Jones Hall.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **November** issue – **Thursday morning, October 17, 2013.**
- **DON'T FORGET. Daylight Saving Time ends November 3, 2013. Please set your clocks BACK one hour.**



(See Page 4 for further calendar details)



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, Daislyn Pease works in the library at the Elmwood Correctional Facility every week. You may have heard that Daislyn and I are part of the regular team of United Methodists and Episcopalians that leads worship there bi-monthly and on the 5th Sundays. Unfortunately, our regularly scheduled worship service last week was cancelled due to a lock-down at the Facility. This week is the 5th Sunday, so we'll be back then. My brother-in-law, Joseph, raised Jewish and an adult convert is a table leader at an Emmaus walk, an intensive renewal retreat, this weekend at a facility in the Mid-West. My brother, Bob, is a regular music leader at the Kairos Walks, the prison-ministry version of Emmaus, at the Federal facility in Norman, Oklahoma.

By this point, you are probably wondering by this time why the litany of prison ministries? Well, a Blog by United Methodist Bishop Grant Hagiya (Greater Northwest Episcopal Area) got me to thinking about how much we expend in ministries, and how much we hold back. I've thought that our 10 services a year at Elmwood, supporting Daislyn's work, and Bob and Joseph's leadership I am doing my part in prison ministry.

Bishop Hagiya, though, compares Cross-fit physical training to our life in ministry. In Cross-Fit training (which we use in workouts at the Martial Arts studio I attend) the goal is to completely exhaust one group of muscles before moving on to the next group of muscles. That is, you go as hard as you can for as long as you can within a timed response, thus maxing out. It has been hard for me to embrace this – I want something left at the end so I can finish a workout and still jump up and get a drink of water. If I really worked all out – “jump up” would be the last thing on my mind!

So back to ministries: Should we be more like the model most of us trained in: leave something for the end? Or more like Cross-Fit: expend it all now. The Cross-Fit model builds exceptional strength.

It is a daunting question. Do we hold back something of ourselves for a rainy day? Or do we trust that as we “use it all” the growing strength will return to us what we need? Understanding issues of burn-out, busy-ness for busy-ness sake, and self-aggrandizement veiled as generosity, (as well as a host of other issues) there are no easy answers in our live in faith. But the question remains – how much do we hold back so we are ‘safe’, and why?

I invite you to ponder this with me. I don't have a good answer for anyone else – but I'm personally working toward holding less back – both in ministry and exercise!

Blessings,

Pastor Shirley

You can read Bishop Hagiya's Blog at: <http://greaternw.org/what-are-you-holding-back/>



A New Way to Support Sunnyhills UMC

You all know that when you purchase Scrip, Sunnyhills receives a portion of the amount you are purchasing – usually from 1% to 10% - of the face value of the Scrip. Talk to Daislyn Pease about purchasing Scrip.

But, if you shop on the internet like I do, a new program from the United Methodist church can point some of your shopping dollars back to Sunnyhills.

WWW.UMCMarket.org is the website where it all starts. Go there and register. To register, the site will need your email address, a password that you choose, your country and zip code. Once registered you can provide more information, but the only mandatory additional information is the name of the organization to which you want your donations made. (Sunnyhills UMC) Check out the online stores signed up for the program. Amazon.com, for instance, donates 4.5% to the organization of your choice. Macys.com 2%, Barnes and Noble 4.5% and so on. Some of the stores only donate for your first online purchase (Walgreens, for instance), but others donate for every online purchase.

I personally purchase a great deal from Amazon. Amazon Scrip is a 4.5% donation; Amazon through UMCMarket is a 4.5% donation, so when I purchase something through the UMCMarket, and pay for it with Scrip, Sunnyhills realizes 9% of my purchase.

Other online stores include: Expedia, Office Depot, Hotels.com, Petco, Overstock.com, Lowe's, Quill.com, FTD, Groupon, Staples just to name a few.

WWW.UMCMarket.org Try it!

Worship in October

October 6, 2013 World Communion Sunday

Joint service with St Joseph and Holy Child Episcopal Churches, Rev. Dr. Ernie Boyer preaching

October 13, 2013 What about the Nine? Luke 17:11-19 Rev. Shirley Macemon preaching

October 20, 2013 Laity Sunday Daislyn Pease presiding and preaching

October 27, 2013 Robin Wells, Candidate for Ordained Ministry preaching

November 3, 2013 All Saints Day What is the Communion of Saints? Rev. Shirley Macemon preaching. Bring pictures or mementos of loved ones who have passed as we honor all those who have made us who we are.



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
Choir The weather is getting cooler and the voices are getting louder as they waft across the campus **Thursdays** during Choir practice. Come on by at **6:30PM.** and share your voice with the choir and the rest of the church.

Ad Council

The **Administrative Council** will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, October 23, 2013** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information. All are welcome.



Change-Over Sunday

The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **October 27, 2013.** Once again the weather is turning colder. Thanks again for making hot meals a reality for many who would otherwise remain hungry. This can only be achieved through the generosity of you and your neighbors.

The Trustees

The Trustees will meet again, Wednesday **October 9th** at **7:30PM,** at **Karen Schreifels'.**



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch bunch will gather again at the Omega Restaurant on **October 20th.** The Omega Restaurant is located at **90 South Park Victoria Drive** in Milpitas.



Dear pastors and church leaders,

On Saturday, October 5, the Northern San Jose Church Extension Society is hosting an event open to anyone interested in reaching out into their communities to share gospel hope. We'll meet at Genesis UMC in Milpitas, 220 South Main Street. We gather at 9:30am and will finish by 11:30am.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Bener Agtarap, Conference Superintendent for Congregational Vitality. In addition, you will hear from 6 small churches in our district who received grants that helped them reach out into their communities or better serve their congregational needs.

The Northern San Jose Church Extension Society administers funds to support congregational ministries in the area of the old San Jose District. This event is their annual meeting and reflects the emphasis of the Extension Society to extend the ministry of Christ through their work. Every church in our conference is covered by an extension society. Whether you are part of this area or not, you are welcome to come and bring your interested church members and friends.

Please RSVP by October 3 to <https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/NSJCES>. See the flyer attached for more details.

Rev. Kristie L. Olah



World Communion Sunday

Plan to attend World Communion Sunday this year, October 6. We'll begin worship at our normal time of 9:30 a.m. The Episcopal congregations of St, Joseph and Holy Child will join us in worship and Rev. Ernie Boyer will be preaching.

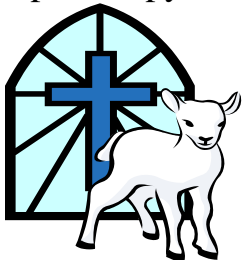
We will also have the Blessing of the Animals, following worship out on the front lawn at 11:00 a.m. All best loved creatures and pets are welcome. Please... nothing that slithers.



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. We started with an introduction in September, and meet each Sunday after worship. Through the month of October. Join us! 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) and I'll order it up for you.



Happy Birthday Wishes to:

10/16 Anita Valderrama
10/12 Lynn Pope
10/25 Johanne Larsen
10/31 Aida Cruz



**Income and Expenses
August 2013**

INCOME	<i>August</i>
Offerings	\$3,002.50
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$3,598.67
Special Giving	\$ 6.06
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$6,607.23

EXPENSES	<i>August</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,334.92
Operating Expense	\$ 2,254.78
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,825.21
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 9,414.91

FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$28,440.23
Designated funds	\$16,758.44



Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, October 5, 2013, 8:00 a.m.

You're invited to share your thoughts on what you would like to see Milpitas be in the future, at the Milpitas Community Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, at 8:00 am. The City of Milpitas has initiated a comprehensive strategic planning process to develop a mission, vision and set of strategic goals for our city. An important part of the process involves hearing from the community. Shawn Spano, PhD, is a professor at San Jose State, and President and Senior Consultant for the Public Dialog Consortium. Please come to the breakfast to share your views of Milpitas as it is now, and what you want Milpitas to be in the future.

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.

For more information, call 263-8942. We hope to see you next Saturday.



Fall for scrip

Well, fall is officially here. Keep on thinking about what you can do for yourself and for your church via scrip orders. For your students, things you may still need to get: Staples, clothes from a variety of places. Take them out to dinner or give them a gift card for their first great test score. iTunes, Starbucks, Jamba Juice, movie tickets through AMC. For the rest of your family and friends, don't forget that Christmas is just a few months away, so start thinking now. Check out the scrip form at church on Sunday mornings or email Daislyn (daislyn@sbcglobal.net) to have her send you the most recent form. And there's always grocery stores for those holiday feasts: Safeway, Nob Hill, SaveMart, and more. So many choices for great gifts, it's hard to decide! **See Daislyn Pease after worship for more details and to purchase scrip.**





Seeking Part-Time Care Giver for Elders



Are you a good caregiver for the elderly? Have you worked in a nursing home, convalescent home, or just performed private care duty.

We are seeking one or two people to help provide in-home care for our aging parents. Our mother, a retired Methodist minister, and our father are in their early 80s and need some regular assistance. They live near downtown San Jose, and would like to stay in their home a few more years before we expect they will move to an assisted living facility.

This would initially be a part-time hourly position, approximately 4 hours every other day or so. We envision a live-out situation to start, but it could evolve into a live-in situation (if you desire) with more hours if their needs increase with age and declining health, provided you are qualified and available to provide a higher level of care.

We are looking for someone who is trustworthy, reliable, compassionate and conscientious. Initial responsibilities would include cooking, driving to appointments, laundry, light housekeeping, grocery shopping and other errands.

We are open to considering applicants not licensed by California, without care giver certifications, provided he or she is experienced in caregiving for the elderly, physically strong and meets the other essential eligibility requirements to perform the job described above. Basic conversational english language skill is required.

Compensation will be commensurate with level of experience, professional qualifications and market rates. If you are interested and qualified, please send an email to johnspilman@netzero.net and dianelyng@gmail.com, or call John at (415) 819-6509 or Diane at (530) 305-2098.



How does sleeping in on a Sunday sound? Daylight Saving Time ends **NOVEMBER 3, 2013**. Please remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour before you retire on Saturday, November 2nd.

Calendar

October

- 1 Evenings in the Garden
- 3 Choir Rehearsal
- 5 Community Breakfast
- 6 Worship – World Communion Sunday
- 7 Blessing of the Animals
- 7 Centering Prayer
- 8 Evenings in the Garden
- 9 Trustees @ Karen's house
- 10 Choir Rehearsal
- 13 Worship
- 13 Book Study after Worship
- 14 Centering Prayer
- 15 Evenings in the Garden
- 17 Choir Rehearsal
- 20 *Beacon Deadline*
- 20 Worship - Laity Sunday
- 20 Book Study after Worship
- 21 Lunch Bunch at the Omega Restaurant
- 21 Centering Prayer
- 22 Evenings in the Garden
- 23 Ad Council
- 24 Choir Rehearsal
- 27 Worship Change-Over Sunday
- 28 Book Study after Worship
- 28 Centering Prayer
- 31 Choir Rehearsal

November

- 2 Community Breakfast
- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS! Set your clocks back one hour.*
- 3 Worship-Begin Thanksgiving special offering
- 4 Centering Prayer
- 7 Choir
- 10 Worship
- 10 Book Study
- 11 Centering Prayer
- 13 Ad Council

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

