



December 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

MARY OF CHRISTMAS

I know not how, dear Lady love,
To offer you my praise,
I cannot fashion as I wish
The words that I would raise.
You stand afar, celestial Queen,
The stars are in your crown,
They spangle at each gesture's path
And dust upon your gown.
Perhaps I might recall the night
You knelt beside the crib,
The night when doors and casements shut

And left a mountain's rib,
Alone, exposed, to hoard you close
Beside the new-born Child
And seek in Joseph's kindly eyes
For something worldly-mild.
To counteract such mundane chill
I hereby set my heart,
Dim mirror of an Infant's warmth,
Its flaming but a part,
A small, sad part of Endless Love
That came on Christmas day
To show a mother wonder-bright
To guide us on our way.

Author Unknown

Note from the editor:

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





Dear Friends,

As I sat to write this letter, my attention was drawn to a piece I'd pulled from a pretty amazing website. Reading it again, it says better than I ever could what I pray for each of you this Advent and Christmas season.

*Perhaps this Christmas you are searching for the peace that Mary found -
the peace that let her have the world believe whatever it wanted about her;
the peace that came from believing that God's story of love
might be told through her too.*

*Perhaps you are searching for the joy that Mary found -
the joy that came from knowing that such an unexpected, unwanted event in her life
could somehow be turned into a much greater story
which would speak love into a broken world
and bring justice to those who have been oppressed.*

*Perhaps you are searching for the courage that Mary found -
the courage to say to the world
'I might know where God is to be found
and i might know how God can be made real'*

*Perhaps you are searching for the faith that Mary found -
to believe that God might want to bring something divine to life in you:
love, perhaps,
grace,
forgiveness.*

*Whether you are searching for peace, joy, courage or faith,
Mary's story lets us believe it might happen
in the most impossible places
and through the most unexpected people...*

*It means we can know with faith that God's story,
brought to life once by a single pregnant teenager,
might be brought to life again by us here.*

by Cheryl Lawrie, the Director for Spirituality, Culture and Context in the Uniting Church in Australia, holdthisspace.org.au

Blessings,

Pastor Shirley



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
Choir Ok Everyone. It's the Advent Season again. So let's all **Don we now our gay apparel**, and go on down to the Sanctuary to join the choir as we **Sing We Now of Christmas**, Thursday nights at 6:30 PM. Newcomers are always welcome!

Ad Council

The **Administrative Council** will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, December 18, 2013** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information.



Change-Over Sunday

The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **December 29, 2013**. Peace on Earth and Full Tummies for All as we step into a Bright New Year. *Thank You Again for helping out through 2013!!!*

The Trustees

The Trustees will meet again, Wednesday **December 11th** at **7:30PM**, at **Karen Schreifels'**.



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 2013**

| INCOME | <i>September</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Offerings | \$4,219.42 |
| Bldg. Use, etc. | \$6,441.09 |
| Special Giving | \$1,518.14 |
| TOTAL | \$12,178.65 |

| EXPENSES | <i>September</i> |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Ministry & Outreach | \$ 1,351.65 |
| Operating Expense | \$ 2,582.38 |
| Pastor and Staff | \$ 6,660.06 |
| TOTAL | \$10,594.09 |

FUND BALANCE

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Cash on hand | \$35,700.28 |
| Designated funds | \$17,366.40 |



2013 SNA International Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 • 7:00pm

Hosted by Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association

RSVP 408-942-1418 / mlemail@mi

SUMC, Jones Hall (across from Weller School)

355 Dixon Road

Milpitas, CA 95035

Join us for some holiday food and fun.

A cool seasonal craft will be made by all participants--to give away or keep for yourself.

Please RSVP what you will bring to our table and so that we have enough craft supplies for everyone--Adults and children will love making this fun treat.

Milpitas Community Breakfast - Saturday, December 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. 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.

Remember Fellowship Time

Every Sunday, several hard working folks from the congregation get table the back of the Sanctuary, start coffee before worship, and lay out the cookies and other goodies so that we can munch as we talk after worship, and clean up everything when the time is right. For the last several years, Jo Roll has taken on the bulk of this (Thank you! thank you! thank you!) with Jack Freeman often on coffee duty. (Thank you! thank you! thank you!)



More of this need to share these tasks on a week to week basis. On the bulletin board in the Sanctuary, you will find a sign up sheet: sign up for a week or two, a week every month, or whatever is right for you. Grab a friend to sign up with and you'll have great discussions as you set out and clean up the snacks.

If taking on an entire week is daunting, bring a shelf-stable bag of cookies or other treats that can be stashed away for lean weeks. Thank you all in advance!!

Annual Church Conference -- Sunday—December 8, 2013

Our annual Church Conference is the time we elect officers, and do the "official" stuff of the Church. We'll start right after worship with a Pot Luck Lunch. Bring something to share, and an appetite! The meeting will be brief, so don't let afternoon obligations keep you from staying!



Christmas Decorate-the-Sanctuary

December 13, Friday, at 7:00 we'll be decking the halls in the Sanctuary, exchanging cookies, making crafts and perhaps even singing some carols. Invite your friends! Bring cookies to exchange and come and join the fun. For the exchange, bring as many cookies as you'd like to take home. So if you bring 2 dozen, take home two dozen - from all the varieties that everyone else has brought. It is a great way to have a variety for your family without all those hours in the kitchen!

Advent Calendar' - a poem by Dr Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mold,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

© Rowan Williams

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Christmas Eve 2013 – A Candle-lit Night of Joy and Celebration
Join us for a beautiful evening of worship and song as we celebrate
the birth of our Lord Jesus. Sunnyhills United Methodist will host a
* combined service with St. Joseph's Episcopal and Holy Child to*
provide a heart-warming and joyful presentation for the whole family
So bring the kids, grandparents, teens and Mom and Dad. There's
* something for everyone as we once again celebrate "The Reason for*
* the Season", December 24th at 7:00PM in the Sunnyhills Sanctuary.*
* * * * *

Calendar

December

- 1 Worship
- 2 Centering Prayer
- 5 Choir Rehearsal
- 7 Community Breakfast
- 8 Worship
- 9 Potluck and Church Conference
- 9 Centering Prayer
- 11 Trustees @ Karen's house
- 12 Choir Rehearsal
- 13 Christmas Decorating and Cookie Exchange
- 15 Worship
- 16 Centering Prayer
- 18 Ad Council
- 19 Choir Rehearsal
- 19 *Beacon Deadline*
- 22 Worship
- 23 Centering Prayer
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
- 25 Day After Christmas (Office Closed)
- 26 No Choir Rehearsal
- 29 Worship – Change Over Sunday
- 30 Centering Prayer

January

- 2 No Choir Rehearsal
- 5 Worship
- 6 Centering Prayer
- 8 Trustees @ Karen's house
- 9 Choir
- 12 Worship
- 13 Lunch Bunch at Baja Cactus
- 13 Centering Prayer
- 15 Ad Council
- 16 Choir
- 19 Worship – Human Relations Day – Special Offering

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

