



*December 2014*

# The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

**Pastor Shirley Macemon**

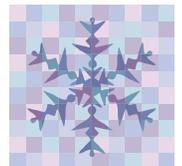
Church Office  
*Visit us on the Web!*

(408) 262-1486  
*sunnyhillsumc.org*



## Note from the editor:

- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.**
- **Trustees will meet** on **Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.** at Karen's'
- **Ad Council** will meet again, **Wednesday, December 17, 2014 p.m. at 7:00PM** in **Jones Hall.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **January** issue – **Tuesday afternoon, December 30, 2014.**



(See Page 3 for further calendar details)

Dear Friends,

If you have been at Sunnyhills during the week lately, you may have noticed a difference. Not just the new roofs, patio, trimmed trees and other signs of recent improvement and maintenance, all of which are still refreshingly new. I'm thinking of the sounds of children and their parents learning and playing. Not only does the Family Resource Center have a full schedule in swing, the Preschool has increased registration, and of course the Success Learning Center hosts many children and youth for tutoring.

I am always heartened listening to the sounds of life all over campus.

Sunday mornings, however in our own sanctuary, are filled with joy, but our attendance is much thinner than even a year ago. It is a quandary for me: our broader ministries, Episcopalian, Old Catholic and Independent Philippine congregations, services for families, preschool and youth, outreach to inmates at Elmwood, and 12 step groups are all thriving and growing, while we-the United Methodist presence are only just holding our own. I don't have any easy answers for this. Financially, we're ok. We pay our bills and keep up with payroll. But our congregational giving is significantly down.

As we enter this Advent Season, I invite you to pray about your involvement and participation in the life of Sunnyhills.

Blessings,

*Pastor Shirley*





## *The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church*

*Choir* It's the Advent Season again!  
The Choir is rehearsing December 4, 11, and 18.



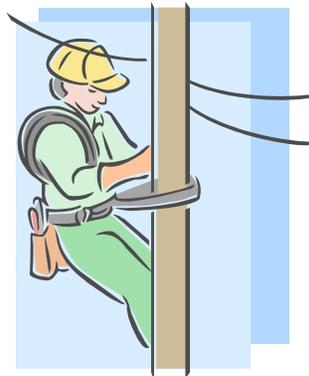
### *Ad Council*

The **Administrative Council** will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, December 17, 2014** in Jones Hall.  
Please contact Bob Roll for additional information.



### *Change-Over Sunday*

It is now decidedly colder outside in the evenings and the demand for help from the Milpitas Food Pantry remains consistent! The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **December 28, 2014**. Your continuous support is so greatly appreciated.



### *The Trustees*

The Trustees will meet again, Wednesday,  
**December 10, 2014** at **7:30PM**, at Karen Schreifels'.



### *Lunch Bunch*

No Lunch Bunch for December

**Happy Birthday Wishes to:**

- 12/02 Virginia Mathiesen
- 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 2014**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b><i>October</i></b>
Offerings	\$ 2,696.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 8,437.99
Special Giving	\$ 195.91
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b>\$ 11,329.90</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b><i>October</i></b>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,254.41
Operating Expense	\$ 2,544.72
Pastor and Staff	\$ 5,908.01
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b>\$ 9,707.14</b>

**FUND BALANCE**

Cash on hand	\$24,820.09
Designated funds	\$10,313.87



## **Milpitas Community Breakfast**

**Saturday, December 6, 8:00 am**

Come hear about the programs and services offered by the City of Milpitas Recreation Department. Learn about opportunities for the community to have recreational, healthful and educational experiences. Jaime Chew, Sports Center & Teen Center Supervisor, will be presenting and answering questions about Youth & Teen programs, Sports Center classes and programs for adults, and the Senior Center which offers activities, a lunch program, and Case Manager services. The Parks Division is also responsible for the maintenance of over 25 parks and outdoor facilities.

## **Scrip**

Remember your church in your gift giving this December. Purchase scrip for items that you use anyway, such as the groceries you shop at anyway. The church gets a small percentage of the purchase. Scrip is great for stocking stuffers too. Gift cards for stores your loved ones like to shop at, restaurants so they can take a night off from cooking. Check out the scrip forms which are usually at the back of the church against the entry wall.

Helps you finish your shopping, helps your church too.

**Daislyn Pease**

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

## **Advent Event**

**Friday evening, December 5, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in the sanctuary for an evening of fun. We'll decorate a Christmas tree, sing some carols, participate making Christmas Crafts, and have a cookie exchange. Fun for all! For the cookie exchange, bring cookies of your choice, and when the cookies are all in, take home an equivalent number of cookies that others have brought-an easy way to have a variety of delicacies! See you there!

## **Christmas Eve Worship**

**7:30 p.m. December 24, in the Sanctuary.**

Christmas Eve worship is my favorite service all year. The sanctuary decorated and filled with folks, luminaries lighting our sidewalks and parking lot, warm and yummy snacks and fellowship following the service. I hope you will join us. As has been our practice, we join with the Episcopalian congregations on Christmas Eve. Our offering will be for the InnVision Women's and Children Shelter.

## **Thank you!**

During November, Sunnyhills collected funds for \$5 grocery store gift cards. These cards get added to the Milpitas Food Pantry's Thanksgiving baskets. This year, we not only met, but exceeded our goal of \$500 in gift cards. Jo Roll, our liaison to the food bank delivered \$505 in combined gift cards and cash to the Food Bank. Thanks to all who participated!

## **Homeless Bags**

During December we will continue packing homeless bags. Each bag will contain a bottle of water, easy to open protein soup or stew, a fruit or pudding dessert, snack bar, toiletries, a new pair of socks and a tshirt. We need all these items. This year we are packing in durable shopping bags, so look to that growing stock (I'm convinced they multiply when we're not looking!) and bring a few in for re-use.

## **Top Ten Things The Apostle Paul Would Have Done If He Had A PC Or Smart Phone**

10. Downloaded MP3s of the righteous Brothers for entertainment while on those long and tedious missionary journeys.
9. Visit WebMD.com about that persistent pain in flesh.
8. His Spiritual Armor would include virus protection software
7. "To Live is Christ, to die is to have a poor Wi-Fi connection"
6. Book boat tickets using Priceline.com
5. Text and Twitter pictures of Peter eating "unclean" foods back to Jerusalem
4. Church officers: Pastor, Elder, Deacon, and Information Technology (IT) Manager
3. Use decryption software to interpret tongues
2. Describe his conversion experience as the "Divine Reboot"
1. Add Spam to the list of cardinal sins.

Slightly modified from the original, Gary Cantwell, 2002

## Ever Wonder Which Bible?

**One of the questions Pastors get asked on a regular basis is “Which version of the Bible is best?” I got this a lot at my last church. Years ago, Guy Haas and I taught a class on “How we got the Bible” and answered some of those questions then. This week I read the following article and found it interesting enough to share it with you. And in case you are wondering: I use the NRSV for study and it is the default for worship readings. I love the readability of the NLT and must admit that it was my Mom’s favorite. I use the NIV in my work at Elmwood, primarily because the same translators have a Spanish translation, the NVI. And if I’m in a narrative mood, the Message fills that gap. My bottom line on Bibles however, is the best one for you is the one you will read, no matter what the “translation politics” are.**

### The Politics of Bible Translations

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Oct 1, 2014 [Scot McKnight](#), <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed>

The Bible you carry is a political act. By “Bible” I mean the Translation of the Bible you carry is a political act. Because the Bible you carry is a political act the rhetoric about other translations is more politics than it is reality. The reality is that the major Bible translations in use today are all good, and beyond good, translations. There is no longer a “best” translation but instead a basket full of exceptional translations.

The world in which we live, however, has turned the Bible you carry into politics. So here goes for my politics of translation at the general, stereotypical level, and it goes without having to say it that there are exceptions for each, [added: and I have "de-raced" my descriptions to avoid that conversation]:

The New International Version (NIV) 2011 is the Bible of conservative evangelicals.

The New Living Translation (NLT) is the Bible of conservative evangelicals.

The TNIV (Today’s New International Version) is the Bible of egalitarian evangelicals.

The ESV (English Standard Version) is the Bible of complementarian conservative evangelicals.

The NASB (New American Standard Bible) is the Bible of conservative evangelical serious Bible students.

The NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) is the Bible of Protestant mainliners.

The RSV (Revised Standard Version) is the Bible of aged Protestant mainliners.

The CEB (Contemporary English Bible) is the Bible of Protestant mainliners.

The KJV (King James Version) or NKJV (New King James Version) ... fill in the blank yourself.

The Message is the Bible of those who are tired of the politics (and like something fresh).

As some have pointed out, I have not included the Bibles of other major branches of the church -- Roman Catholics tend to have their own translations as do the Orthodox and others. Thanks for these.

Now the big one: each of these translations is a very good translation. The rhetoric that “our Bible” is better than your Bible — masked as “word for word” or “accurate” — is political rhetoric and not translation theory.

The politics of Bible translation is a sad case of colonizing the Bible for one’s agenda. There is lots of stone throwing about translations as if one is wildly superior to the others, but often that is about tribes and not the translation. Each group has its Bible, has its translation, and you declare your allegiance to your tribe by carrying and citing the Bible of your tribe. Show your cards by exposing the Bible you use and you will be telling us which tribe is yours.

Anyone with knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek knows that these Bibles are solid, both in theory and execution, translations.

When I visit a new church I can walk into the sanctuary (or auditorium) and know which tribe the church belongs to by the pew Bible: the translation tells the story because Bible translations have become ecclesial politics.

Why say this? To say this: Each of these Bibles is a good translation. We need to teach our church people that and knock off the politics of translation. Maybe you should vary from week to week which translation you use, announce your translation, and then affirm the value of that translation.

A year of confusing the politics out Bible translations might bring the most clarity!

Another point being made in the recent dustup about the TNIV and the NIV 2011 (and the NIVI [New International Version Inclusive Language]) has to do with “translation theory.” I hear it like this all the time: I prefer “dynamic equivalence” (functional equivalence) or I prefer “formal equivalence.” Sometimes it gets expressed by such words as “paraphrase” or “literal” and sometimes by “bad” and “good.” Or “loose” and “tight.”

I'd like to contend today that most words are translated in all Bible translations with formal equivalence and that some words are translated more or less in a dynamic, or functional way. In other words, there isn't really a radical commitment to dynamic equivalence — as if one can find some better way in English to the original languages “and” or “but” or “the” or “God.” Or a radical commitment to “formal equivalence,” as if the Greek word order can be maintained in English and make sense, though at times the NASB gave that a try (much to the consternation of English readers). No one translates “God’s nostrils got bigger” (formal equivalence) but we translate “God became angry.” There are some expressions that can't be translated woodenly unless one prefers not to be understood.

The result of this is that all translations are on a spectrum of more or less formal and more or less dynamic. Now one more complication: each translation will vary for individual words or phrases or clauses.

Each of these Bibles is good. Let's use them all, and rejoice that we have such wonderful access to the Bible.

Read more: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/2014/10/01/the-politics-of-bible-translations/#ixzz3FaKnVYRQ>

## *Calendar*

Every Monday @ 11:00AM, Centering Prayer

### December

Thursday, December 4	Choir
Friday, December 5	Decorate for Advent
Sunday, December 7	U.M. Worship
Wednesday, December 10	Trustees @ Karen & Mary's
Thursday, December 11	Choir
Sunday, December 14	U.M. Worship
Wednesday, December 17	Ad council
Thursday, December 18	Choir
Sunday, December 21	U.M. Worship
Wednesday, December 24	Special offering for Inn Vision
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Eve joint service
Sunday, December 28	Christmas
	U.M. Worship

### January

Sunday, January 4	U.M. Worship
Sunday, January 11	U.M. worship
Wednesday, January 14	Lunch Bunch TBD
Sunday, January 18	Trustees @ Karen & Mary's
Wednesday, January 21	U.M. Worship
Sunday, January 25	Human Relations Special
	Ad Council
	U.M. Worship

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

