



January 2015

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

**May this new year be a step
forward,
In leading you to new
adventures,
New roads to explore and
new success to reach!
Happy New Year**



Note from the editor:



- The next **Community Breakfast** will be **Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.**
- **Trustees** will meet on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** at Karens'
- **Ad Council** will meet again, **Wednesday, January 21, 2015 p.m. at 7:00PM** in Jones Hall.
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **February** issue – **Tuesday afternoon, January 29, 2015.**

(See Page 3 for further calendar details)

Dear Friends,

I'm writing on New Year's Eve: 2014 isn't done yet, but already my 2015 calendar is already getting populated. Looking back on the year is pretty satisfying. Our **Elmwood Ministries** continue to be strong, with a worship service ten Sunday evenings a year, an every-Wednesday Bible Study and Daislyn as a dedicated volunteer in the Library every week. With the **Family Resource Center** in residence, we have another new roof, new windows, paint and furniture for the preschool, trimmed trees and life on campus all week. The **Episcopalians** installed our wonderful new patio between the buildings, and **Santa Maria** took the lead on new laminate flooring in the chancel. I'm continuing to recover from shoulder surgery and have taken up almost all the activities I had to put aside pre-surgery and during the healing process. Advent was wonderful – kicked off with the tree decorating/cookie exchange and finishing up with a wonderful Christmas Eve service – with 75 in attendance.

But 2014 has also seen a drop in our attendance and our giving. We're in an unusual place for small churches: our grant income from tenants, largely used for maintenance, utilities and facility operating, keeps us paying all our bills. But we come closer to the line each month.

This is **not** a request for more funding – though if you need to catch up for 2014 or get a head start on 2015 giving, your check is graciously welcome.

This is a request to begin – continue – to look at who we are, where we want to be in the year to come.

Unlike the “Church of Our Past”, new church attendance membership is **not** a byproduct of holding a community event, exactly the right bible study, or advertising. If it were, we'd have visitors – at least on Christmas and Easter. Some churches do attract visitors with door hangers, direct mail and the like. They keep visitors with big bands, vibrant children's ministries, and engaging youth groups.

Everything I read tells me folks who come to a new church and stay are *invited, personally for a particular ministry within the church that fills a need within their lives and spirits.*

So, here's the thing. In 2014 we've gone from an average of 25 in worship to an average of 18 in worship. Each of our regular and healthy members has at least two, sometimes three or more major responsibilities in the life of the church. Despite our size and fragility, we're strong in mission in the community.

And we need to plan where we go from here. Growth? (new people from where, for what new and engaging programs, who will personally invite families and staff new ministries.) Maintenance? (do nothing particularly new, live as long as we can.) Retirement? (determine what our fundamentals are, concentrate on them and make a realistic plan for the next years when we are 17, 15, 11 in worship and giving does not cover salaries.)

There are other choices. I'm open to your input, energy, hopes, dreams and desires.

Blessings,

Pastor Shirley



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
Choir Choir rehearsals for the month of January are on the 8th and 15th of this new year.

Ad Council

The **Administrative Council** will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, January 21, 2015** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information.

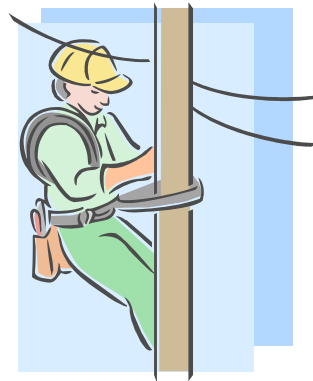


Change-Over Sunday

The wind has picked up and the demand for help from the Milpitas Food Pantry is still standing. The next **Change-Over Sunday is January 31**. Your continuous support is so greatly appreciated.

The Trustees

The Trustees will meet again, Wednesday, **January 14, 2015** at **7:30PM**, at Karen Schreifels'.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch bunch is on Sunday, January 11. Location TBD.

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

- 01/01 Emil Sazon
- 01/10 Don Egbert
- 01/16 Joyce Johnson
- 01/17 Eugenia Allen Egbert
- 01/17 Rebecca Marcus
- 01/22 Laurie Haas
- 01/23 Guy Haas



Happy Anniversary!!

- 01/19 Anita and Reuben Valderrama

**Income and Expenses
November 2014**

INCOME	<i>November</i>
Offerings	\$ 4,160.98
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 6,903.07
Special Giving	\$ 654.14
TOTAL	\$11,718.19

EXPENSES	<i>November</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,890.11
Operating Expense	\$ 2,775.60
Pastor and Staff	\$ 6,407.57
TOTAL	\$11,073.28

FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$26,376.20
Designated funds	\$10,367.31



Calendar

Every Monday @ 11:00AM, Centering Prayer

January

Sunday, January 4

Saturday, January 10

Sunday, January 11

Wednesday, January 14

Sunday, January 18

Wednesday, January 21

Sunday, January 25

U.M. Worship

Community Breakfast

U.M. Worship

Lunch Bunch TBD

Trustees @ Karen's

U.M. Worship

Human Relations Special

Ad Council

U.M. Worship

Elmwood Evening Worship

February

Sunday, February 1

Sunday, February 8

Wednesday, February 11

Sunday, February 15

Wednesday, February 18

Sunday, February 22

Thursday, February 26

U.M. Worship

U.M. Worship

Trustees @ Karen's

U.M. Worship

"Fat Tuesday" Sunday Night
Supper

"Ash Wednesday" 5-6pm Come as
you are Communion

Ad Council

U.M. Worship

Lenten soup Suppers and Vespers

– begins@5:30pm

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