

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, March 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.**
- **Trustees** will meet on **Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** at Karens'
- **Ad Council** will meet again, **Wednesday, March 18, 2015 p.m. at 7:00 p.m.** in **Jones Hall.**
- **BEACON DEADLINE:** For the **March** issue – **Thursday afternoon, March 26, 2015.**



(See Page 3 for further calendar details)



Dear Friends,

I just read my last two Beacon letters. I hadn't realized how similar they were, but I must confess that they both are accurate and reflect what is on my mind. Specifically, how will we choose to live into the future.

Unlike many small congregations, our payroll isn't in jeopardy, and our utility bills are paid regularly. But like many small congregations, our active members have too many jobs, and our funds for programs are shrinking quickly.

I hope you will join me on two Friday nights: March 13 and April 17, for a discussion titled "Where do we go from here?"

It would be lovely to say "Attract families with young children" but the real question is deeper than that: What changes in our worship, fellowship, programming and community need to be made for families with young children and no "traditional" church connection to be so enchanted that they will come and stay. And, with that said, are we trying to grow an institution, or the body of Christ?

I only use "families with children" as an example. It tends to be the first idea, and frankly, the least likely to be achievable. We need to think beyond our current notions of "church."

What if we had a closer or different relationship with Genesis UMC?

What if we had a closer or different relationship with St Joseph, or Santa Maria?

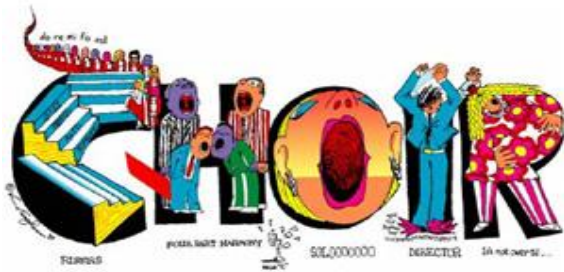
What if we offered part of our space as home for a new church start – Filipino, Mandarin, Vietnamese or ??

What if....

Please, join me on March 13 and April 17 to continue this discussion.

Blessings,

Pastor Shirley



The Sunnyhills United Methodist Church Choir
 Choir rehearsals for the month of March are the 12th and 19th.



Ad Council
 The **Administrative Council** will meet at **7:00PM** on **Wednesday, March 18, 2015** in Jones Hall. Please contact Bob Roll for additional information.



Change-Over Sunday
 The days are bright and clear... But where is the rain!?
 Yet the demand for help from the Milpitas Food Pantry is still there.
 The next **Change-Over Sunday** is **March 29**.
 Your continuous support is very greatly appreciated.

The Trustees
 The Trustees will meet again, **Tuesday, March 10, 2015** at **7:30PM**, at **Karen Schreifels'**.



Lunch Bunch
 Lunch bunch is @ Baja Cactus at 12:30pm, Sunday, March 8th.

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

- 03/06 Jamie MacLeod
- 03/06 Daislyn Pease
- 03/06 Tyler Tanciango
- 03/09 David Johnson
- 03/14 Ealasaid Haas
- 03/26 Huynh Phan



Happy Anniversary!!

03/05 Gwen and Jack Freeman

**Income and Expenses
January 2015**

INCOME	<i>January</i>
Offerings	\$ 3,005.00
Bldg. Use, etc.	\$ 8,412.74
Special Giving	\$ 191.60
TOTAL	\$11,609.34

EXPENSES	<i>January</i>
Ministry & Outreach	\$ 1,262.62
Operating Expense	\$ 2,727.97
Pastor and Staff	\$ 8,411.40
TOTAL	\$12,401.99

FUND BALANCE

Cash on hand	\$21,219.91
Designated funds	\$10,555.37



Lenten Activities at Sunnyhills

Lenten soup suppers and vespers will continue through March 26. Soup suppers will begin at 5:15, Vespers at 5:45, and choir at 6:30, (on March 12 and 19, only). Please join us!

Community Breakfast

Milpitas Post Editor and Publisher Robert J. Devincenzi and founder Mort Levine will host the Milpitas Community Breakfast on Saturday, March 7, starting at 8 a.m.

The Milpitas Post is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Levine will speak on the origins of the newspaper and how the industry and product have changed over the last six decades.

Expect a country-style breakfast of eggs, sausage, pastries, coffee and juice and an informal discussion about what's ahead for the newspaper and its digital products.

The free breakfast (donations accepted) is open to all residents and business owners.

If you have any questions, please contact Guy Haas through the church office.

Peace,
[\(408\) 262-1486](tel:(408)262-1486)



Building An Inclusive Church

A Workshop On The Basics Of The Reconciling Process



March 7, 2015

Saturday, 10am-4pm
*(Lunch/Snacks provided,
Donations are welcome)*

Wesley UMC
566 North 5th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

In the spirit of radical hospitality and biblical obedience, we invite you to participate in this half-day workshop to learn the basics of building an inclusive church and meet the leaders of the reconciling movement in your annual conference and district. **It is free and open to all.** Donations are welcome and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Here are topics we will cover:

- *LGBTQ 101 (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)*
- *Steps in Building an Inclusive Church*
- *Graceful Engagement (Engaging Conflict Well)*
- *The Ministry of a Reconciling Process Coach*

Register online:

www.rmnetwork.org/blog/2014/12/16/bicsanjose/

For more information, or to RSVP, contact:

Rev. Israel Alvaran: izzy@rmnetwork.org / 510-717-4894



Sponsors: Wesley UMC, Network on Religion and Justice for API LGBTQ People, Reconciling Ministries Network

How Jesus Used Scripture

Friends,

I get a daily meditation from Richard Rohr's website, CAC.org. Recently I've been in discussions in several contexts of the pros and cons of "cherry picking" scripture. I thought you'd find this meditation interesting! Pastor Shirley

Looking at which Scripture passages Jesus emphasizes (remember, the Hebrew Bible is his only Bible!) shows he clearly understands how to connect the "three steps forward" dots that confirm the God he has met, knows, loves, and trusts. At the same time, Jesus ignores or openly contradicts the many "two steps backward" texts. He never quotes the book of Numbers, for example, which is rather ritualistic and legalistic. He never quotes Joshua or Judges, which are full of sanctified violence. Basically, Jesus doesn't quote from his own Scriptures when they are punitive, imperialistic ("My country and religion are the 'only!'"), classist, or exclusionary. In fact, he teaches the exact opposite in every case. This is hard to miss. And our job as Christians is to imitate Jesus!

Jesus does not mention the list of 28 "thou shall nots" in Leviticus 18 through 20, but chooses instead to echo the rare positive quote of Leviticus 19:18: "You must love your neighbor as yourself." The longest single passage he quotes is from Isaiah 61 (in Luke 4:18-19): "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, and to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord." But Jesus plays fast and easy, as they say, and quotes selectively! He appears to have deliberately omitted the last line--"and the day of vengeance of our God" (Isaiah 61:2b)--because he does not believe in a God of vengeance at all.

Jesus knows how to connect the dots and find out where the text is truly heading, beyond the low-level consciousness of a particular moment, fear, or circumstance. He knows there is a bigger arc to the story, one that always reveals a God who is compassionate, non-violent, and inclusive of outsiders. (Such passages are already found in the Hebrew Bible!) He knew how to "thin slice" the text, to find the overall pattern based on small windows of insight. He learned from Ezekiel, for example, that God's justice is restorative and not retributive. God punishes Israel by loving the Israelites even more! How did we miss that one?

We can only safely read Scripture--it is a dangerous book--if we are somehow sharing in the divine gaze of love. A life of prayer helps you develop a third eye that can read between the lines and find the golden thread which is moving toward inclusivity, mercy, and justice. I am sure that is what Paul means when he teaches that we must "know spiritual things in a spiritual way" (1 Corinthians 2:13). Any "pre-existing condition" of a hardened heart, a predisposition to judgment, a fear of God, any need to win or prove yourself right will corrupt and distort the most inspired and inspiring of Scriptures--just as they pollute every human conversation and relationship. Hateful people will find hateful verses to confirm their love of death. Loving people will find loving verses to call them into an even greater love of life. And both kinds of verses are in the Bible!

Adapted from Richard Rohr's
Hierarchy of Truths: Jesus' Use of Scripture, 2015

Thank You



Ralph Nikolaus
Handyman Extraordinaire
and Guy Haas
Faithful Assistant
stabilizing and construction
work on Jones Hall west
overhang to keep everyone
safe until permanent
repairs can be made

2nd 50

Construction of our SUMC buildings was completed by 1965, so they have now seen 50 years of service, sheltering worship, community meetings, Sunday school, educational classes of all kinds, committee gatherings, and a whole lot of wonderful potluck events!

Our busy campus is a lively, vibrant community resource and provides a welcoming space to many groups: Sunnyhills United Methodist Church worship services, study classes, choir rehearsals prayer meetings, committees, and childcare, of course, **PLUS** other religious and non-profit organizations:

Saint Joseph the Worker and Holy Child
Episcopalian

St. Mary's Philippine

Santa Maria Old Catholic

three weekly 12-Step meetings

Greater Love Church of God in Christ choir & Bible

study

Milpitas Parents' Pre-School

Success Learning Center

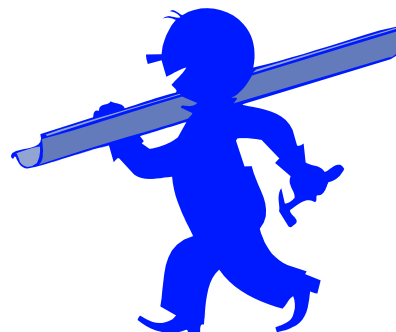
Family Resource Center

Milpitas Community Breakfast

local community organizations such as Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association and

Equestrian Friends of Ed Levin Park

and undoubtedly a few more I forgot to mention!



Over the past three years we have repaired the office and sanctuary buildings to prepare them for many more years of service.

Now it's time for the last of our three buildings, Jones Hall.

We are saving steadily out of our rental income, and we will once again be searching out partners and grants to help finance the cost of removing the roof, replacing all weakened and diseased beams, re-roofing, and painting. It's a big chore, and it needs to be done soon, before the whole building crashes down around our ears. Ball-park estimates are in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

If you have ideas, suggestions, would like to help, or want more information, we would love to hear from you. Contact the 2nd 50 Committee: Cliveden Chew Haas, Bob Roll, and Shirley Macemon. Contributions are always welcome: Please mark your gift "2nd 50" and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office: Sunnyhills UMC, 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035. Church phone (408) 262-1486.

Calendar

Every Monday @ 11:00AM, Centering Prayer

Every Sunday @ 9:30AM, U.M. Worship

Every Sunday in March @ 11:15 AM, Adult Study: Renegade Gospel

March

Thursday, March 5

5:15pm
5:45pm

Lenten Soup Supper
Vespers

Sunday, March 8

12:30pm

Lunch Bunch
Baja Cactus

Tuesday, March 10

7:30pm

Trustees @ Karen's

Thursday, March 12

5:15pm
5:45pm

Lenten Soup Supper
Vespers

Friday, March 13

6:30pm

Choir rehearsal
Where do we go from here?

Sunday, March 15

Special Offering:
One Great Hour of Sharing

Wednesday, March 18

7:00pm

Ad Council

Thursday, March 19

5:15pm
5:45pm

Lenten Soup Supper
Vespers

Thursday, March 26

6:30pm
5:15pm
5:45pm

Choir rehearsal
Lenten Soup Supper
Vespers

April

Sunday, April 5

6:30am

Easter
Sunrise Service & breakfast

Wednesday, April 8

7:30pm

Trustees @ Karen's

Wednesday, April 15

7:00pm

Ad Council
Where do we go from here? #2

Friday, April 17

6:30pm

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

