

# The Beacon



Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
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Pastor and Beacon Editor: Rev. Shirley K Macemon

Dear Friends,

It is Advent, the 4 weeks before Christmas. A time to center, to meditate, to prepare for the coming of Jesus—again— into our lives and hearts. Like many of you, I have a list of things to do, presents to buy, goodies to make, projects to finish—oh, and of course sermons to write! Just typing that list makes me believe that I’m unlikely to get much centering or meditative time in the next 4 weeks. But, Advent time is sacred time. Time is sacred whether we choose to use it filled with busy things, or for settling in and spending quality time with God, family or simply yourself. Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan I’ve come to know and admire, tells us that because of the incarnation—that is, because God came to walk among us as human and God’s divinity touches each and every thing on earth, there is no separation between the “sacred” and the “secular” Everything touched by God is sacred; God touches every thing. So, no matter how you spend your Advent, all time is sacred time. All activities are sacred activities. Part of our job is to remember that, give thanks, and live into that sacredness.

Blessings,

*Pastor Shirley*



## Dates to Remember

<b>Fri, Dec. 4</b>	<b>6:30 p.m. Advent Extravaganza</b>
<b>Thu, Dec. 3</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. Kairos Crafters</b>
	<b>6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri, Dec. 4</b>	<b>6:30 p.m. Advent Extravaganza</b>
<b>Sat, Dec 5</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Church Conference,</b> <b>St Paul UMC ,Fremont</b>
<b>Thu, Dec 24</b>	<b>7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship</b>

## Can we END HOMELESSNESS?

On November 13th, a dozen congregation members met with Harriet Pecot of InnVision Shelter Network to learn more about homelessness in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The following Sunday we highlighted the information during the church service and the congregation discussed ways Sunnyhills UMC can help.



We were all deeply touched by the great difficulties so many hard-working and responsible adults have trying to survive in the Bay Area. We live in one of the most expensive housing markets in the U.S., and, for many families and individuals, homelessness is just one paycheck away. Illness, family break-up, death, something as simple as a car that won't run or a landlord's decision to remodel, can put people on the street. About 7,000 people are homeless every night in these two counties.

How can WE make a difference? We live out our faith by helping those whom Jesus cared for. We give our time, our energy, our talents, our resources because we are needed. In January, SUMC will visit two family shelters and then plan a year-long response to homelessness. On December 20th and December 24th our special offering will go to support InnVision Shelter Network programs in our area.

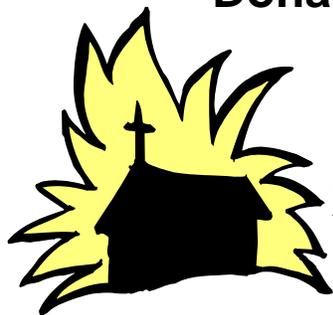
Anyone interested in learning about and working on homelessness is welcome at all our meetings. Bring your friends and invite your neighbors to our Christmas Eve service and the shelter tours. (See time and date details elsewhere in this issue.)

## Donation via Paypal on Church Website

[www.sunnyhillsumc.org](http://www.sunnyhillsumc.org)

If you prefer to use a credit card or debit card to handle your pledge or other giving to the Church, now you can!

Thanks to the technical savvy of Guy Haas, our dedicated church webmaster, the church website now has a new Paypal button on the front page. Anyone who prefers using a credit or debit card for donations can do so easily. Just visit [www.sunnyhillsumc.org](http://www.sunnyhillsumc.org), click on the Paypal button, and enter



your information.

Click on "special instructions to seller" on the donation review page to enter a short summary such as "Miracle Sunday," "new roof," "regular giving," "special offering," so the church treasurer knows how to use your money

Questions or concerns? Contact Guy at 408/666-4820 and he'll be glad to help.

## Annual Church Conference

Our Church Conference is the time of year when we celebrate the ministries of the past year, elect our officers for the upcoming year, and approve the Pastor's Compensation Package.

This year, we'll be joining the other churches in our Circuit at St. Paul's UMC in Fremont. on Saturday, December 5th for our Conference.

We'll start at 9:30 a.m. with worship together, and be finished with our own Church business by noon. Anne Lau Choy will preside for Sunnyside. Every church member and attendee is invited!



## Worship in Advent and Christmas

November 29	First Sunday in Advent Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 3:1-12	<i>Sacred Time</i> Pastor Shirley preaching
December 6	Second Sunday in Advent Isaiah 2:1-5, Luke 1:26-28, Matt. 1:18-25	<i>Sacred People</i> Pastor Shirley preaching
December 13	Third Sunday in Advent Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:39-56	<i>Sacred Space</i> Pastor Shirley preaching
December 20	Fourth Sunday in Advent Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 2:1-15	<i>Sacred Knowing</i> Special Music: Stargeezers Patricia Parfett preaching
December 24	Christmas Eve	Lessons and Carols
December 27	First Sunday of Christmas Revelations 21:1-6a, Matthew 25: 31-46	<i>Sacred Doing</i> Pastor Shirley preaching

## Start the Journey Toward Bethlehem

*Friday, December 4th, 6:30 p.m.*

Decorating the Sanctuary, setting up the tree, creating new Chrismons and other Christmas decorations

Enjoy cookies, hot cider, Christmas music.

Bring cookies to participate in the Cookie Exchange: take home as many cookies as you brought choosing from the variety baked by others!

Everyone welcome!



### ***The Sunnyhills Choir***

Our small choir sings accessible, two to four part anthems. We rehearse on at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings twice a month, and before each Worship service. Join us! Dec 1 (to Coordinate with St Joseph and Holy Child for Christmas Eve) Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17. January rehearsals will be announced.



### **Milpitas Community Breakfast** - Saturday, Dec 5, 2015, 8:00 am

Members of the Campaign Finance Reform Committee will present its 14 recommendations to strengthen the rules in Milpitas for citywide campaigns at the December breakfast. These proposal were presented to the city council in November and include recommendations to limit the length of time candidates can raise money, voluntary limits on total campaign spending and a prohibition on accepting contributions from companies with projects before the city. The public is invited to learn about these recommendations and give your thoughts on them.

The breakfast, a 50-year old tradition in Milpitas, is sponsored by the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church and the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association. 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. at Jones Hall, SUMC, 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. The next Breakfast will be January 9, 2016. For more information, call 263-8942.



Remember your church in your gift giving this December. Purchase scrip for the things you buy anyway, groceries, many of your favorite restaurants, and as gift cards for popular locations like Starbucks. Scrip forms are available in the back of the sanctuary, or from Daislyn Pease. 408-656-6023.

Thanks for your support!

### ***Change-Over Sunday***

The Homeless and the financially challenged have been somewhat blessed this season with very little rain. But the need for food and donations for the food pantry remains very high. The next **Change-Over Sunday is December 27** Please give generously to help keep tummies full.

And ***Thank You Again for your generosity throughout the year.***

## 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

## Trustees and Ad Council

Neither Trustees nor Ad Council will meet formally during December. If you have concerns that need to be addressed by either group, contact Karen Schreifels and Bob roll, respectively.



## Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons and Carols

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

My favorite service all year, Christmas Eve finds the sanctuary full with our congregations from Sunnyhills UM, St Joseph and Holy Child Episcopal and guests from many places and faith traditions. Luminaries light the sidewalks and parking lot, music fills the sanctuary, warm and yummy snacks and fellowship follow in Jones Hall.

I hope you and your family will join us. Bring a dish to share if you like. Our Christmas Eve offering will support the work of the InnVision Shelter network.

## Help for the Homeless

We have more than a dozen homeless bags packed and ready to go into your cars. Remember, this time of year we pack these bags, containing easy open meat, fruit, protein bars, a bottle of water and a new pair of socks to reach out to those who we see on street corners and other places looking for donations. I can tell you from my personal experience that as well received as a meal is, the socks are always a hit, and very welcomed. Take several bags for your car. We will re-pack bags as the supply is used.



## Rockin' Rollin' Christmas Service

Sunday, December 20 will be a very special pre-Christmas service, featuring one of our favorite musical adventures: the StarGeezers! Jim Reynolds and company will join us that morning with acoustic guitar, stand up bass, mandolin and amazing vocals to celebrate the Christmas season. The StarGeezers bring us country style music of new and old favorites of the season.

Patricia Parfett, Director of Congregational Care at the Los Altos UMC, will preach. Don't miss this special Christmas season service!

## Kairos Krafters: December 3, 3:00 p.m.

Sometimes it is just nice to be able to sit with a group of friends and chat while working on handcrafts of all kinds. Kairos Krafters meet somewhat irregularly, but generally on the first Thursday of each month, 3:00—5:00 in the Sanctuary. Kairos Krafters is a drop in group, so don't worry about coming after 3 or leaving before 5. We'd like to see you!



In November and December we have special projects to work on in addition (or instead of) our own knitting or whatever. These projects include preparing materials for Christmas ornaments that we'll make in December, and tying quilts and blankets for mission donations.





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## **First Class Mail**



### **Jesus' family needed a safe shelter**

#### ***So do many others in our community***

Monday, January 25th, at 10:30 a.m. at the Church to carpool to join Harriet Pecot of InnVision Shelter Network for a tour of two local homeless shelters.

Villa on 11th Street in San Jose provides transitional housing for 55 women and children as they journey from homelessness to self-support. The Commercial Street Inn, also in San Jose, gives emergency shelter and services to another 55 women and children.

Mark your 2016 calendars and plan to join us on the last Monday in January as we learn about the ups and downs of helping homeless families in our area.

