

Campbell



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY, 2012



CONTENTS

Apportionments	6
A Litany from 1/15/12	8
Circuit Writer	6
Epiphany Celebration	7
From the Heart	10
History Helpers	8
In the Community	4
Interfaith Update	4
Methodist Connection	5
On the Campus	3
Pastor's Point of View	2
Youth	9

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 22, 2012

with a special **Ash Wednesday Service**

CONTINUES each week through March 3 1st with special Worship Services at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

CHALLENGES us with a Sunday Message Series entitled "5 Values to Embrace for Lent"

OFFERS spiritual Growth Opportunities each Wednesday at our traditional Stone Soup Suppers and Study

PREPARES us to experience Holy Week

READIES us for Easter!

FURTHER INFORMATION COMING SOON!



Campbell Connections

A monthly publication of
Campbell United Methodist Church

Editor - Heather Reynolds

**Copy Proofing - Dave Foyle
Gail Jacobs**

The Campbell Connections is mailed
the 3rd Wednesday* of each month.
Deadline to submit an article is 4 p.m.
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Submit article to Church Office
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*If there are 5 Wednesdays in a month
the newsletter will be mailed on the 4th
Wednesday & the deadline for articles will
be on the 3rd Wednesday.

If you have any questions regarding
the mailing, please call the office at
408-378-3472

❖
**CAMPBELL UMC is a RECONCILING
CONGREGATION**

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Church Office: 408 378-3472

Web Site: www.campbellunited.org

❖
Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

African Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

New Creation UMC Worship: 12:30 p.m.

Quiet Communion: 6:00 p.m. Tuesday

Bright Days Preschool

Mary Smith, Director: 408-378-8422

www.brightdayspreschool.com



Pastor's Point of View

Dear Campbell Friends:

I suppose it's OK for me to confess that I'm a bit confused as I write this letter. You see, it's the middle of January and I'm still basking in the glow of a wonderful Christmas season.....and yet I just attended a planning meeting for Lent! So I went looking for some spiritual perspective and found these words in Psalm 86:

"Lord, listen to me and answer me. I am poor and needy." "Great is your steadfast love toward me."

Psalm 86 is called A Prayer of David and is usually prayed when things go bad. It's a prayer for when we're confronted with bad news, a difficult situation or when things just generally fall apart. It's a "go-to" Psalm if you're struggling with the unfairness or unpredictability of life. If life is a struggle today, pray it!

But it's also a perfect prayer when things are going well, a prayer for those of us who have enough money, health and power to get through the day with ease. Praying this Psalm when you're down offers the spiritual perspective and support you need. Pray it when everything is OK and it takes on new meaning. It becomes a call to humility, a reminder that "all good things around us are sent from heaven above," an affirmation that all hope lies with God. So, if life is a breeze today, praise God for it and enjoy it. Each of us could use more days like this. And pray this prayer.

Please remember, whether today is a good day or a struggle, you always have the one thing that finally matters: the love of God who made you.

Blessings for a spiritually robust time between Christmas and Lent!

Pastor Jim

**My thanks to Quinn Caldwell, UCC Pastor, for suggesting this take on Psalm 86*



Finian's Rainbow with 50+

Join in the fun as we see one of the beloved classics of American musical theater at the Saratoga Civic Center on Saturday, February 4 at 8:00 pm, preceded by dinner at an area restaurant for those interested. Enter the enchanting world of an Irish father and daughter who come to America in search of a better life, and find themselves in the mythical state of Missitucky. There's a magical twist in their story: a pot of gold and a leprechaun in hot pursuit! Come and hear some of the best known songs ever written: *How Are Things in Glocca Morra*, *That Old Devil Moon* and *Look to the Rainbow*; this delightful tale will fill you with warmth and wonder. Ticket cost for seniors is \$28; look for the sign up table on January 22 and 29 or call Bob or Betty Renfer at 408-248-8756.

Bob Renfer, 50+ Group ❖

Trustee Work Morning

The Trustees would like to invite everyone to a time of fellowship and caring for the Sanctuary on February 11th from 8:00 AM until Noon. This will be your chance to help prepare the Sanctuary and Chapel for the coming Easter season. Supplies and a light snack will be provided. Come for the morning or an hour or two; all are welcome for whatever time you have to help. Tasks are available for all! For questions or concerns contact John Finzel at jjfinzel@att.net or 408-806-3744.

John Finzel, Trustees ❖

100th Birthday of Girl Scouts is coming!

Many of you had the opportunity to fill out the Girl Scout survey on Sunday January 15. If you missed that Sunday, we would love to have that information from you. You may e-mail it to Elaine

Hill at eugeneh614@aol.com. Please include your name, and phone number, whether you are a current or past Girl Scout or Girl Guide, and where you participated - city, state, country. Please include the levels (Brownie, Junior, etc.) you held. We would also like to know about any awards that you received.

We hope to have a luncheon on Girl Scout Sunday, March 11, if there is enough interest. I think that it would be fun to hear adventures from other Girl Scouts, and to sing some Girl Scout songs. *I hope to hear from you.*

Elaine Hill ❖

From Endowment Committee

With the holidays over, our lives will begin to slow down. I would like to remind each of you that this is a good time to review your wills and living trusts. For those of you who do not have either of these documents, take time to write down what you would like in your will or living trust. The Endowment Committee encourages each person to review these documents each year to see if what you have in the documents is still relevant to your

continued on p. 8

50+ CALENDAR FOR 2012

Mark your calendar and watch the Church Connections and Bulletins for details on all the activities planned for 2012. You are invited to join in the fun and fellowship!

Event	Month & Coordinator
Game night at the Church	January 20, Joyce Johnson 941-9759
“ Finian’s Rainbow “ at Saratoga Civic Center	February 4, Bob & Betty Renfer 248-8756
Computer History Museum in Mt. View	March, Dick Meehan 253-8109
“ Tin Pan Alley Rag “ with James Greer	
San Pedro Square, San Jose	April, LaVerne Jury 377-2920
Dreyer’s Ice Cream Factory, Union City	May, Bill Adams 293-4562
Walking tour of Guadalupe River Garden	
San Jose	June, Susan & Dave Sargent, 378-1232
San Jose Giants BBQ and baseball, San Jose	July, Carol & Larry Griffith 252-2106
Elkhorn Slough at Moss Landing	August, Nancy & Al Friebe 356-8938
Walking Tour in San Francisco	September, Joyce & Jack Hocker 268-4646
Half Moon Bay - shop and lunch	
visit other sites in area	October
Thanksgiving Feast at the Church	November 10, Elaine & Jim Laflin 379-2347
Christmas Party at the Church	December 15, Bertie & Dick Meehan 253-8109

Events, not at the church, normally include lunch or dinner, for those interested. Please call the event Coordinator if you would like more information.

In the COMMUNITY

Elmwood Ministry - Mandalas

The Elmwood Ministry Team from Campbell United Methodist Church (UMC) completed its fourth series of Art and Spirit workshops with women in minimum security at Elmwood Women's Correctional Facility. The team, including Elaine Bondonno, Sue Foyle, Lou Woodburycatcott, Ginny Johnson, Gillian Harrington, and Sherry Finzel, spent three consecutive Monday evenings in late November and early December working with the women to create mandalas for their worship room. Wikipedia defines mandala as "a Sanskrit word that means "circle"...concentric diagrams, [that] have spiritual and ritual meaning, and they are also a key part of some meditation practices. In various spiritual traditions, mandalas may be employed for focusing attention, as a spiritual teaching tool, for establishing a sacred space, and as an aid to meditation and trance induction."

The women began with coloring their individual mandalas, using crayons, colored pencils, and pens, creating extraordinary and expressive pieces of art.

The second session involved coloring mandalas in the shape of a hand as a powerful expression of the body of Christ and all that our hands can do and be.

The final session involved the women choosing which of the round mandalas they colored to be the centerpieces for the two large mandalas and then each placed her beautifully designed hand mandala around the centerpieces, together creating something each of them responded to with awe, delight, and pride.

In that third session, the women also made two smaller mandalas that were comprised of colored centerpieces and smaller hand cutouts upon which each of them wrote personal prayers. These were also placed by the women onto the mandala frame, leaving space for others who attended the worship service to include their own prayers.

On Sunday, December 18th, the Campbell UMC Elmwood Ministry Team attended the monthly worship service officiated by Rev. Louann Roberts, at which the two large and two small mandalas were presented, as were the individually colored round mandalas that had been joined by and displayed on lengths of ribbon.

As those women who participated in the workshops entered their worship room, they sought out their individual creations, pointing them out to each other and their friends.

During the service, congregants received blank hand cutouts upon which they could write their prayers, and then each had the opportunity to adhere her hand to the smaller mandalas.

The service was a celebration of their creativity and of the Christmas season, during which several women spoke of their experiences in the workshops and the meanings behind their creations. Team members also shared with the women the importance of our work with them and the many ways we are touched by them, receiving far more than we can give, and feeling very blessed to have the opportunity to serve them.

Sherry Finzel ❖

Asked about what the experience of this ministry at Elmwood has meant, team members speak from their hearts:

"Where we have seen God and joy this past week? Well, that was easy for me - the women at Elmwood. I had a lengthy conversation with an inmate about her plans for the first few days she is out of jail. She was very matter-of-fact about getting out on Saturday night (no complaints about getting out late in the evening), said she needs a place to stay for Sunday night so she can be in town to meet her probation officer on Monday morning. She said she would go to church services all day on Sunday if she has to. I could see the worry and anxiety in her face but also strength and courage. When she opened her heart and prayed for reconciliation

with her children...I saw it...HOPE is alive at Elmwood."

"Working with the women at Elmwood has been an uplifting experience filled with grace. Although they have a tough road ahead of them, they are trying to find a way to better themselves, find hope, and strengthen their faith. They show me what grace looks like in their gratitude, excitement, and willingness to expose their hearts to us all."

"My emotions are so deep with this ministry that words are inadequate to express my feelings. I feel sadness and elation, joy and pain. Sadness for these beautiful women allowing themselves to be in their situation; elation that I can be part of a team that allows them a few moments of peace, serenity and safety; joy for the wonderful smiles for the women's gratitude; and pain that I am not able to do more. That God has opened my heart to a part of life I have worked so hard to stay away from is unbelievable and awakening."

"Working on the jail art ministry team has been such a blessing! Seeing the materials we bring in metamorphose into vibrant works of art and hearing the women's hopes and prayers amidst their circumstances is a spiritual experience. I believe everyone touched by this ministry has been transformed in a profound and beautiful way."

"Working with inmates and our team allows me to learn truths about myself, turns my concerns into concrete action and constantly puts me in the presence of God's forgiving and transforming grace. This healing grace has no bounds. We, inmates and volunteers, are transformed; I am changed."

Interfaith Opportunity Update

The group that will be meeting with eight women from the Pacifica Institute to discuss the Silicon Valley Reads books on Islam is full. If you would like to be on a waiting list, please contact Elaine Bondonno or Sue Edson. We may be able to add you. This is a group of eight women from Campbell UMC and eight from Pacifica, meeting in February on four Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, starting on February 8. The exact details may change slightly.



Methodist C.o.n.n.e.c.t.i.o.n

United Methodist Women

Happy New Year from the United Methodist Women

We are happy to announce that we are starting our 2012 Reading Program and the new books will be on the book cart in February. Listed below are the new books we are adding to our library.



Book Name	Author	Category
Beaded Hope	Cathy Liggett	Education Mission
Forgotten Girls	Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett	Education Mission
We Wait You	Taryn Hutchison	Education Mission
Change the World	Mike Slaughter	Leadership Development
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkamba	Leadership Development
Allow God to Wear Your Face	Alice Knotts	Nurturing Community
I am Nujood Age 10 and Divorced	Nujood Ali	Nurturing Community
Moral Ground	Kathleen Dean Moore/Michael Nelson	Social Action
Rediscovering Values	Jim Wallis	Social Action
The Slave Next Door	Kevin Bales/Ron Soodalter	Social Action
Francis The Saint of Assisi	Joan Nueller	Spiritual Growth
Laugh Your Way to Grace	Susan Sparks	Spiritual Growth
Wasabi Gospel	Shawn Wood	Spiritual Growth
Faith	Maya Ajmera	Spiritual Growth/Children
Ostriches, Dung Beetles, and Other Spiritual Masters	Janice McLaughlin	Spiritual Growth

Our certificate Reading Program Plan will include books from the years 2008 to 2012. There are four plans.

Plan I – Read five books for the year. One from each category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

Plan II – Read ten books for the year. Two from each category. Regular reading of Response and New World Outlook magazines.

Plan III - Read fifteen books for the year. Eight with at least two from each category. Seven additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response and New World Outlook magazines.

Plan IV – Read twenty books for the year. Eight with at least two from each category. Twelve additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response and New World. Books you read last year cannot be reported this year if you reported them last year.

Each month I will write a review of one of the books from the reading program. This will give you an insight to some of the books offered in our library. These books are available to everyone; you do not have to participate in the reading program to enjoy reading these books.

The UMW book cart is located in the Fireside Room. Recently, the book cart has been moved from the Fireside Room to the hall adjacent to the room. Please do not remove the book cart from the Fireside Room. Thank you for your cooperation.

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers. ~ Charles W. Eliot

Susan Jones, Program Resources ❖

Circuit Writer



To Lie or Not to Lie

Rev. Larry LaPierre

When I was a boy the 10 Commandments were the minimum standard for behavior. One of those commandments that I did violate (not the only one to be sure) was the ninth: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20).¹ Actually, I didn't "bear false witness." At the time (eight years old) I had no idea what bearing false witness meant. I was simply trying to convince my father that I had done something that both he and I knew that I hadn't. Somehow the ninth commandment has been reframed in our minds to mean "Thou shalt not lie" meaning that we must always tell the truth.

I lived with that belief until Jane and I went to a six week course on ethics taught by Dr. John Ford who was a professor at Catholic University of America. During that course, Dr. Ford clearly told us that there were times when we were not obligated to tell the "truth." How could a Catholic scholar teach such apparent heresy?

Well, let's explore what he said. He raised the question like this: "Just because someone asks you a question, does that mean that you have to reveal what you know about the situation?" Just to make it a little more difficult, let's assume that you can't hide behind the shield of confidentiality like clergy can. If someone asks us if our spouse is having a mental breakdown, are we required to answer that question accurately?

The simple answer, according to Dr. Ford, is "No—not if your spouse has asked you not to reveal their condition." Of course, answering a direct question with the response, "I can't answer that question" can easily be construed as a "Yes—she or he is having a mental

¹The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

breakdown." It comes down to the issue of whether a person has a right to privacy, and while in this country there is some dispute (as with Judge Bork during his Supreme Court nomination hearings), there is also considerable support for the belief that we are legally entitled to a measure of privacy.

However, we are not in court. We are in the Church, and the question is whether we must always reveal all that we know. If we take seriously the call to "Love our neighbor as ourselves" (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:19) then I think that we are not bound to reveal all that we

know in all circumstances. In fact, it can be the most loving act to deliberately conceal what we know if by revealing it we would cause unnecessary harm to a person. Is that saying that I would lie under certain circumstances? Yes, if I believed that to reveal the truth would cause harm that would not, at a minimum, be outweighed by the greater good. I assume that not everyone agrees with me. Feel free to make your case, for there are many examples where literal truth is not the highest good.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖



What are 'Apportionments' and how do they help us stay connected?

The United Methodist Church is a multi-national movement that requires oversight, planning and coordination. Thousands of churches around the world are connected not just by a common logo but by an organization that maintains consistency and common practices to achieve our vision as United Methodists. This is true if we worship in Campbell, Sierra Leone or the Philippines.

Every year, each local church is allocated a portion of the total costs to keep the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church operational. Through these apportionments, we support these causes:

World Service Fund: The financial lifeline to a long list of global Christian missions developing leaders for the church, building new places of worship, engaging with the poor and improving living conditions.

Africa University Fund: Today there are 1,200 students from 25 African countries who will graduate and work in many areas such as agriculture, health care, church growth and development.

Ministerial Education Fund: This allows the United Methodist Church to continue its commitment to recruit and educate quality pastoral leadership.

Black College Fund: Helps 11 United Methodist - related, historically black colleges and universities to maintain

solid academic programs, faculties and facilities.

Episcopal Fund: Supports our bishops, an integral part of the spiritual and administrative leadership of the United Methodist Church.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund: Enables United Methodists to have a presence and a voice in the activities of several national and worldwide ecumenical and interreligious organizations.

General Administration Fund: Attends to the business of the United Methodist Church by ensuring trustworthy systems of oversight and financial accountability.

Our apportionments contribution touches lives in ways that we could never do as a stand-alone church. Funds that are used to connect all our churches around the world so we become stronger through our numbers. Funds that promote the principles of the United Methodist church.

This year the apportionments contribution for Campbell United Methodist Church has been set at over \$60,000. The Church Council plans to raise this money by holding three or four fund raising drives during the year. We look forward to your continuing generosity to maintain the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church around the world.

Bruce Hallinan, Church Council ❖

A Celebration of EPIPHANY in pictures



Sunday, January 8th was a joyous Epiphany Worship Celebration led by our African ministries. We always look forward to the energy of the service and enjoying the wonderful food afterwards. We were happy to have a reporter from the Mercury News attend and take pictures for a news article. You'll find a link to the article on the church web site: www.campbellunited.org

Or go directly to: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_19715111

Photos by Dave Foyle



continued from p. 3

needs. For those of you who do not have a will or living trust, make it a New Year's resolution to see that one of these documents is completed in 2012.

Please put the following date on your calendar: **April 14, 2012** - There will be a **Seminar open to all**. The seminar will take place in the Fireside Room at 10:00 am. A topic will be provided at a later date.

Let's Get A Good Thing Growing. Please consider our CUMC Endowment Fund in your gift planning.

Terry Johnson, Endowment Committee ❖

HISTORY HELPERS

"snippets from our past"

FROM 1942

This info is from the March 1942 issue of "The Orchard City Methodist".

This was the largest issue to date - three sheets of 8 1/2 by 11 colored paper, folded in half and stapled to make 12 printed pages.

The middle four pages consisted of the program for the Women's Society of Christian Service from February, 1942 to January, 1943. Their calendar included a General Meeting each month except July and August, with a program at each meeting. Program topics included "The Peoples of South America", "Religions South of the Border", "The Problem of the Migrant Worker", and "Work Among the American Indians". These General Meetings alternated between afternoon meetings and evening meetings.

There were three Circles that met monthly; the Alpha Circle, the Mary and Martha Circle, and the Omega Circle. In addition, there were four rotating groups who prepared luncheon for the Kiwanis Club. In January, the ladies had a general meeting with supper prepared by the New Executive Board, the Installation of Officers, the Drawing of Names for Circle Membership, and a program titled "Alaska".

Words shared from Human Relations Day, Sunday Worship, January 15, 2012

LET JUSTICE ROLL ON LIKE A RIVER

A Litany in the Words of Amos, Isaiah and Luke

Voice 1: The prophet Amos screams, "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream."
(Amos 5:24)

Voice 2: Burst through the stonewalls of our institutions and irrigate the land with glad tidings.

Voice 1: Let mercy and peace and justice and righteousness cascade like a waterfall that all may have an opportunity to be, as God intended us to be.

Voice 2: Look, see, listen: Arise for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
(Isaiah 60:1)

Voice 1: Where are those who will bring God's light to those who live in the dark chaos of society?

Voice 2: You remove the bushel from the lamp, stand and carry the light that our forbearers carried over the past decades and centuries.

Voice 1: Let us begin again. Hold high the light that dispels the darkness from our homes, our schools, our prisons, the seat of government, the place of business and even from those whom teach our faith.

Voice 2: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us for the Spirit has anointed us to bring good news to the poor and to set at liberty those who are oppressed, imprisoned, marginalized, ostracized and decimated.
(Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19)

All: Praise God, we are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord and we have one intention - to renovate and rebuild. We shall wait upon the Lord who shall renew our strength.
We shall mount up with wings as eagles, we shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:31)

-Affirmed in Worship on Sunday, January 15, 2012

UMYF TALKING "LISTEN UP"

CALENDAR

sunday, january 29

UMYF meeting
11:45 am to 1:30 pm

sunday, february 5

"souper" bowl potluck
11:45 am to 2:00 pm

sunday, february 12

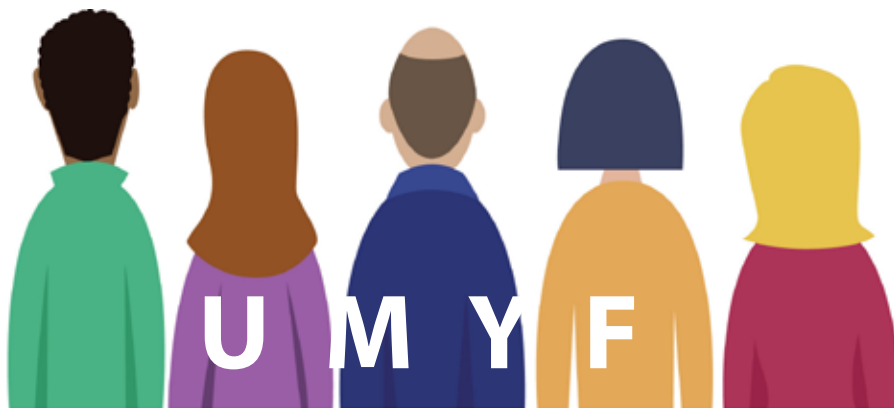
UMYF meeting
11:45 am to 1:30 pm

sunday, february 19

President's weekend
no Youth Group

sunday, february 26

movie and pizza night
5:30 pm



PARENT MEETING

On Sunday, January 22nd there will be a parent meeting at 10:30 am in the youth room. This is just a chance to let you know what is planned for the rest of the year and answer any questions you might have.

Melinda Knepp,
Youth Coordinator ❖

"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is planning its annual "Souper" Bowl Sunday potluck. It will start after second service, about 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and we'll have something cooking on the BBQ. And of course the youth will have their soup pots out collecting donations for a charity yet to be determined.

Look for more details in the next couple of weeks and we hope to see you at our tailgate party!

OKA POND CREEK CLEAN UP



YOUTH
SERVICE
PROJECT

Come join UMYF on Sunday, January 22 in picking up trash around Oka Pond in Los Gatos. New Creations preparing a Lunar New Year lunch that day, so we'll meet at church at 11:30 am to share in this lunch.

At 12:30 pm we'll car pool over to Oka Pond. All you need to bring are gloves if you have them. If you don't we have some spares. We should be done about 1:30 pm.

All are welcome to join the youth group in this community service and we hope to see you out there. It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



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Mailing Date: January 11, 2012
Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**
February 15, 2011
Return Service Requested

People reaching out, with open minds, souls and hearts -

- Nourishing spirituality
- Engaging creativity
- Building social justice
- Providing loving, welcoming community
- for Christ and the world.

To the Members of CUMC of Campbell
Thank you for the lovely Poinsettia
plant that was delivered by the Friebels
several days before Christmas. I also
enjoyed the nice visit with Nancy and
Al.
Dorothy Faul

from
the **Heart**

"Thank you to my church family, members
of Cereus circle, and the Caregivers, for all of
the cards and calls that came when I was at
Plumtree. They brightened my days there, and
I so appreciated them. And thank you for the
food that continues to be given to us - it is a
great blessing and so helpful.
With love from Kay Hamp."

Dear Friends of
Campbell Methodist Church,
Thank you for the gift of a lovely potted
plant - delivered to my door by Sue Edson -
thank you Sue!
It makes me feel a part of me is still there
and not forgotten.
I know "our" church will thrive and do
many great, wonderful things for all.
Thank you, Eiko Shimizu

Dear Church Family,
What a nice thing you do in
giving Poinsettias to older members
at Christmas time. It brightened my
day so much and will for a long time.
I thank you so much and thank
Connie Wellington for delivering it.
I'm still loving it.
Marguerite Howell

Marvin and I would like to thank our friends at
Campbell UMC for the beautiful poinsettia. It is a
constant reminder of the Christmas story and the
followers of Christ in our lives. We look forward to
each Sunday when we can be among the faithful at
CUMC. To be able to worship with you fills us with
joy. Thank you for your loving care.
Ina and Marvin Tanner

