



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER, 2011

2011 Journey To Bethlehem Begins Nov 27TH

Advent Calendar Packed With Spiritual Purpose!

Campbell UMC will prepare for Christmas through a variety of churchwide events and activities, including:



WORSHIP

Advent Worship this year will be guided by our exploration of "Questions Asked at Christmas." Each week we'll hear scripture retell a portion of the journey to Bethlehem and consider the question raised, including:

- Nov. 27th "Are You The Messiah?" (Luke 3:1-16)
- ★ Dec. 4th "Mary, Did You Know?" (Luke 1:26-45)
 - ★ Dec. 11th "Really, Joseph?" (Matt 1:18-22)
- ★ Dec. 18th "Just Who Are All These People?" (Nativity Stories)

Beautiful seasonal music by our chancel choir, bell choirs, organ and piano, carol singing and gift giving will enrich our services.

You'll want to be here each Sunday at 9:00 or 10:30 a.m.

SMALL-GROUP STUDY

Two Advent Study Groups will offer the opportunity for spiritual growth during Advent, including:

★ WOMEN'S ADVENT STUDY

This group will meet in the mornings of the four Tuesdays of Advent beginning on Nov. 29th in the Fireside Room from 9:00-10:30 a.m. This is a special opportunity for spiritual growth, quiet reflection and warm fellowship. The resource for the group will be the wonderful book "The Uncluttered Heart:

★ THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

This group, for men and women, will also meet on the four Tuesdays of Advent beginning on Nov. 29th but in the evenings in the Chapel from 7:00-8:30 p.m. This group will "walk the road to Bethlehem" and explore the birth of Jesus with fresh eyes and ears. In doing so we'll aim to recapture the

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Merry Mayhem

Holiday Arts and Crafts • Singing and Snacks A Holiday Treat for Adults and Children Sunday, December 4th at 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Adult Choir Christmas Concert

Advent and Christmas in Scripture and Song **Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.**

Organ Concerts

Fridays, December 9th & 16th, 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Wishing Tree • Adopt-A-Family
Other Opportunities for Caring for Those in Need
Each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall

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 or e-mail the Editor at: hreynolds63@gmail.com.

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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

CHURCH STAFF

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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

It may seem like we've always celebrated Christmas in the United States but that's not exactly true. In fact, our joyous religious holiday was actually banned in America for several decades - by Christians!

The Puritans, as we know, believed that people needed strict rules to be religious and that any kind of merrymaking was sinful. As a result, Christmas was banned in Boston from 1668 until 1681 and the Plymouth Colony actually made celebrating Christmas a criminal offense. Stores and schools were required to remain open on Dec. 25th and town criers walked through the streets on Christmas Eve shouting "No Christmas, no Christmas." And while the laws against Christmas were repealed in 1681, the day did not become a legal holiday until 1856.

I can only imagine what those old Puritans would make of today's celebrations and activities – what with "Black Friday" the day after Thanksgiving, office parties, rampant consumerism, football and basketball games on Christmas itself and excessive holiday drinking throughout the season. I suspect they might say, "See, we told you so."

Now, I don't want to ban or cancel the more secular aspects of the holiday. Frankly, like you, I enjoy the family gatherings, the gift giving and much of the excitement. But, like most pastors, I do wish we could slow down and moderate the hectic (frantic?) rush to Christmas that our Decembers have become, a rush where the Christ child has little, if any, place.

Can we do that this year? I think we can. Let me suggest a few ways:

- First, commit yourself and your family members to "Taking Time for Christ." Select some of the church's Advent activities and intentionally set aside time to participate in them. Attend Worship (of course), perhaps join one of the Advent Study Groups, enjoy Merry Mayhem or experience Christmas music. The key here is to intentionally set aside the time to do
- Second, resist the urge to spend every last cent that's in your bank account or on your credit cards. Consumerism, in general but specifically at Christmas, is the leading contributor to unhappiness (I know, it sounds counterintuitive – but it's true!). The key here is to not get caught up in what others are doing!
- Third, make sure you give something to someone without expecting anything in return. It's good for the soul and for the Kingdom of God. To care for the least and the lost, the hopeless and helpless, will bring you closer to Christ than anything else you do this Christmas. And the church will help you do it. The key here is to just do it!

I look forward to experiencing a wonderful Advent with you and then celebrating, once again, God's gift of love at Christmas!

Blessings, Pastor Jim



Pecans have Arrived

The Women's Service Club of Campbell is pleased to announce that



once again they are selling their delicious pecans between church services for as long as they last. These are the perfect item as a gift for your hair dresser, mail carrier or teacher. Or maybe you just want to make that old family recipe for pecan pie for the holidays.

The pecans come in six delicious flavors: Glazed, Cinnamon Glazed, Milk Chocolate Covered, Dark Chocolate Covered, Chocolate Caramel Covered and the Fancy Mammoth Halves.

So be sure to pick up your pecans for just \$9.00 a bag as soon as you can. They go fast and you certainly don't want to miss out!!

The proceeds from these sales will be going for scholarships to graduating high school seniors within the Campbell Union School District.

Lou Woodburycatcott 🧇

Wishing Tree

The Wishing Tree is in the foyer of Fellowship Hall, bedecked with gift tags! Choose a tag and buy the gift listed on it. Bring the wrapped gift, with the tag attached, to the church office by Tuesday, December 6th. All gifts go to the Adopt-A-Family program coordinated by Justice Empowerment Services (formerly Friends Outside in Santa Clara County), and will be given to those families who weren't adopted for the holidays. �

Alternative Gift Faire Continues

The Alternative Gift Faire will continue through **December 23rd**. Gift cards are available in the office. You can honor the "reason for the season" by giving a gift in someone's honor to a charitable organization. Save time, save the environment, live your values, and give from the heart, at the Alternative

Gift Faire. We also offer mail order! Send your Alernative Gift Faire form to the office by Friday, December 16th, and we will mail your gift cards to you for your holiday giving. <a>

Not rain nor snow nor ...

TLC, (Treking to Lunch in Campbell) has been meeting, walking, and eating regularly on each Friday, starting at 10:45 a.m. or so, at the Campbell Community Center track. We walk at our our own pace until 11:45 a.m., then go together for lunch out. New participants are cordially invited to give our group a try. For more info, contact Dave or Susan Sargent, 378-1232. .

24th Annual Christmas Crèche

Come and see 500 nativities from 80 countries and enjoy this seasonal visual delight Saturday, December 3 through Wednesday, December 7, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m.

The Exhibit takes place in the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 3865 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, California 94303. The church is on the corner of Middlefield Road and Ensign Way, 1/2 block north of the intersection of Middlefield Road and Charleston Road.

Merry Mayhem is Around the Corner!

Please join us for Merry Mayhem on Sunday, December 4, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. This fun Campbell UMC advent tradition continues. Holiday arts and crafts for adults and children. cookie frosting, storytelling and singing of carols are on the agenda. Crafts from 2:00-4:15 p.m. Caroling, hot chocolate and cookies from 4:15-5:00 p.m. Hope to see adults and children there!

Jenni Martin, Children's Council 📀

Come to the 50+ Christmas

On Saturday, December 17th you are invited to the 50+ Christmas Party which will include a special catered

buffet dinner prepared by Amanda Lincoln, a graduate of Campbell's Professional Culinary Institute. We"ll gather about 6:00 p.m. and share some cider, then enjoy a wonderful meal together, followed by a carol sing and exchange of gifts (which should be

homemade or cost not more than \$5). This is always a wonderful gathering and helps

everyone get in the Christmas spirit.

The dinner cost will be \$15; please pay when you sign up on Sunday, December 4 or December 11. When you sign up, please indicate if you will be able to help prepare the Fellowship Hall/ Fireside Room in the morning of December 17th. Call Dick or Bertie Meehan at 253-8109 if you have any questions. 💠

Book Group

Book Group meets each month from 4:00 - 5:30 pm in the Fireside room. For more information call Sue Edson at 408-378-6349.

Book Group schedule for 2011 - 2012

November 28, 2011-"Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand. Ron, Dick and Ellen to lead.

December - no meeting

January 23, 2012-"The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson. Ellen to lead.

Februay 27, 2012- We will discuss the Silicon Valley Reads book for 2012. (Title not yet announced)

March 26, 2012- "State of Wonder" by Ann Patchett. Roger to lead.

April 23, 2012- "The Great Bridge" by David McCullough. Dick to lead.

May 21, 2012-"The Giver" by Lois Lowry. Susan to lead.

Sue Edson 📀

One-Stop Shopping With SCRIP!

Let SCRIP do your holiday shopping for you. Purchase or special order gift certificates for all those hard-to-shop-for people in your family, or for out-of-town

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In the COMMUNITY

Girl Scouts/Girl Guides Photographs needed!

Do you have a photo of yourself in a Girl Scout Uniform, or at a Girl Scout event? We would like to display them on Girl Scout Sunday in March.

Please send a copy -- not the original -- with sufficient information to explain what is happening in the photo. Remember your lessons in writing a newspaper article -- who, what, where, when, why.

A short story about the event, or your experiences in Girl Scouting would be greatly appreciated.

There have been Girl Scout troops that met at the Campbell Methodist Church. Were you a member or leader of one of those troops? Do you know someone who was?

I am waiting to hear from you. Please contact Elaine Hill at eugeneh614@aol. com, or phone 226-6801. ❖

Beyond Our Church Boundaries

The season of Advent is a time to

take stock and give thanks for the many blessings we all have. For some, our blessings are bountiful. For others, we can be grateful for small but important things in our life – people, shelter, food. To celebrate this season of new life and new promises, you are invited to share your blessings and participate in Campbell United Methodist Church's First Annual Advent Giving activity.

Each Sunday during Advent, you will have the opportunity to help a different organization within our community. There will be a special time during the service to bring your contributions to the altar where Pastor Jim will bless these gifts before they leave the sanctuary.

In keeping with the holiday spirit this Advent season, let's look outward beyond our church boundaries and extend our blessings to help bring food, comfort, and other necessities to our neighbors. Share with others the warmth of the season by participating in the First Annual Advent Giving!

Please make note of these dates and the needed items and bring your

contribution each week. What may seem like a token offering can mean so much to someone in need.

November 27 – *Emergency Housing Consortium*: Hats, gloves, mittens, warm socks, scarves (for adults and children).

December 4 – *InnVision*: Spoons and forks (disposable and non-disposable), paper towels, 8-ounce mugs, disposable plates and bowls, tri-fold napkins for dispensers, toilet paper, gloves, sock, scarves.

December 11 – Second Harvest Food Bank: Canned goods and nonperishables.

December 18 – *Rosemary School:*Reading books for the classrooms,
Kleenex, crayons, pencils, art supplies –
construction paper, markers, glue sticks,
glitter.

When you do your shopping, please keep these worthy organizations in mind. Imagine the joy you can bring and the many lives you can touch if each of us brings something each Sunday!

Gail Jacobs, Church & Society 💠

HISTORY HELPERS

"snippets from our past"

MORE from the first issue of the first church newsletter! The pastor was Donald H. Baldwin, at the time. It was called, "The Orchard City Methodist". The excerpt below is from the bottom of the first page of that newsletter.

The Orchard City METHODIST FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA November 1941 FROM 1941

Fall Planning Conference & Turkey Dinner Monday evening, November 10th, 6:30 P.M.

"Tom" Turkey will preside at the dinner!

"Ted" Palmquist will preside at the Conference.

(Don't ask for a better combination.)

(underlined) DINNER RESERVATIONS IMPORTANT

Phone reservations early to Mrs. Guy Farley,

Campbell 189; or to the parsonage, phone 154.

Every member of the family is welcome.

The cost of the dinner wll be for the turkey

only, probably not exceeding 20 cents per person.



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

United Methodist Women

BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN JONES

Touch Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World by Pastor Rudy Rasmus



Before God touched his heart and transformed his life, Rudy Rasmus was a businessman running a "borderline bordello" in Houston. But thousands now know him simply as "Pastor

Rudy"- with a downtown ministry at St. John's Church that he and his wife Juanita started, to reach out to those who Jesus called "the least of these." TOUCH is the amazing story of Rudy's life and ministry of grace that is changing lives daily. The church has become one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country with people from every social and economic background, including the homeless, sharing the same pew. Pastor Rudy's message to touch the lives of those in our own communities has a lesson for us all.

The overall theme of the book is about Pastor Rudy touching the people who feel unloved, down and out and who may have lost their faith and way in life. Pastor Rudy is such a wonderful example of how God would want us to minister to our suffering world. This is a must read for those who not only would like their church to make a difference, but to learn and understand how just one person at a time can make a difference.

Pastor Rudy has provided at the end of the book a "how-to" section. How To Begin A Ministry To Homeless People and How to Lead A Touch Group or Class. This book would be a great book to start a small group especially around the holidays.

Susan Jones 💠

ALL WOMEN INVITED ...



"Away In A Manger" is the program theme for the United Methodist Women's meeting on Thursday, December 1st, in the Fireside Room. Convening at 9:30 a.m., there will be a brief business meeting, followed by refreshments at 10:30 a.m. The

program begins at 11:00 a.m.

Attendees are asked to bring a special manger scene used in their home, that emphasizes the meaning of Christmas. A display will be set up featuring the crèches, supporting the spoken message. All women of the church are invited to attend the program.

Myra Wight 💠

FROM ANNA CIRCLE

A MEMORIAL GIFT OF \$100 was given to honor the memory of Jim Key, by his wife Doni.

As a member of Anna Circle, Doni key requested that the Circle select a worthy project to support. Anna Circle selected the "Blanket" project which is "chaired" by Jane LaPierre. This is a most deserving effort made by a group within our church family. A group of six women meet monthly to put bedrolls together for the homeless. They have a goal of 90 bedrolls a year and have met that this year. The gift will be used to buy the batting that goes in the bedrolls.

If you want to support this project there are donation bins in the Fellowship Hall entrance for blankets and bedsheets.

Darlene Dyer, Anna Circle 💠

2011 Journey To Bethlehem Begins Nov 27TH

★ WOMEN'S ADVENT STUDY

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Making Room For God During Advent And Christmas" by Beth Richardson. Please contact leaders Sue Foyle (378-7388) or Brenda Schirle (879-9238) for more information and to receive your book before the first meeting. .

★ THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

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riches of this greatest story ever told. Pastor Jim will lead this study with the book "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton as a resource. To register please call the church office (378-3472) or sign up at coffee hour. <





Before we pray for Forgiveness Rev. Larry LaPierre

"It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others, he'll do for you. With arms wide open, He'll pardon you. It is no secret what God can do."1 Do you remember that refrain? It's one that I enjoy singing because it reminds me of God's incredible mercy—mercy that is available any time that we seek it in prayer.

However, sometimes there are obstacles to even the most ardent prayer for mercy—obstacles that make it impossible for us to genuinely accept God's forgiveness. What can possibly get in the way of God answering our prayer for mercy? Well, we hear a hint of one such obstacle In the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus spoke about the importance of dealing with anger (Matthew 5:21-26). In verses 23b-24 he said, "if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come offer your gift." Why? It's because we're in no condition to act as if our relationship with God is healthy when our relationships with any of God's people aren't healthy. Unresolved hurts, resentments and bitterness create barriers between us and God as well as between us and those we have hurt or been injured by.

We may want to offer God or some group of God's people a gift of love. We may seek God's mercy. However, if we are not at peace with someone else, our gifts and our prayers are blocked by our unresolved anger, resentment or bitterness. How can we expect our prayers to get past these barriers to grace when we have not attempted to reconcile with whoever we've hurt? The only prayer that makes sense to me in this situation is one where we first ask God to help us to reconcile with those we have alienated. Then we can approach God in prayer about whatever else is important to us.

One of the great rabbis of the 20th century, Abraham Joshua Heschel, wrote this: "Someone may commit a crime now and teach mathematics an hour later, but when we pray, all we have done in our lives enters our prayers." 2 This includes all of the unresolved hurt that we have caused. If we have difficulty in praying or in feeling that our prayers are heard, perhaps it is because we have not reconciled with someone we've hurt. Rather than worry about getting our prayers "right," we need to be "right" with whoever we've hurt so that we can be "right" with God.

A final thought: Are you surprised that a rabbi is so insightful about prayer? There's no need to be. Jews, like most people, pray, and it is the same God who hears their prayers as well as those of Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Native Americans, etc.

Rev. Larry LaPierre 🧇

1 "It is No Secret" by Stuart Hamblen. 2 Abraham Joshua Heschel: Essential Writings, Selected with an Introduction by Susannah Heschel (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011



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family and friends. Every certificate you buy benefits the church as well as you! Choose from over 60 different merchants on Sunday morning, or choose from hundreds of merchants when you special order certificates. Stop by the SCRIP table on Sunday morning for more information, or to order. 📀

Planned Gift

Many people look for ways to give to an organization that they care about. It is possible for you to give a generous gift to Campbell United Methodist Church through a process called a planned giving. A planned gift leaves a legacy that keeps on giving past your lifetime.

The beauty of this process is that you can make a gift without using your

current income. To leave such a legacy you must first find the right strategy for you. One of the ways to see this is to make a bequest to the church effective upon your death. This method is an easy way to make a difference in the future of Campbell United Methodist Church.

Through a bequest you can give a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. This process is also an excellent way to transfer certain property or a specific asset you wish to share with the church.

As you end 2011, begin 2012 think of ways you would like to support the church in years to come.

Terry Johnson, chairperson Endowment Committee <

from the Editor: "Seasons Greetings and

I am coming up to my first Anniversary as Editor for the Campbell Connections and I want to thank you all for your support, encouragement and kind words.

Communications are evolving continuously and hopefully reaching out to both our campus community and the community we all live in.

Any new ideas are welcomed. Call me at 408-971-6343 or email the Outreach Committee chair, Andrew Reynolds at: areynoldsre@ gmail.com.

Format for articles and photographs: please type with returns only - no extra formatting. Send in Microsoft Word, or text in email. Photographs are best in jpeg's or tiff's at 300 dpi. I can resize down, but not up.

Thank you, Heather Reynolds Editor 💠



SHOP-TIL-YOU-DROP

Mark your calendars. **December** 19TH is Shop-Til-You-Drop. And what does this mean? It means that you can bring your kids (infants through 5th graders) to church from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. while you finish your shopping, wrapping or just take the time to relax. The youth from our congregation will have games, crafts and movies for the kids to enjoy.

The cost is \$25 for one child, \$35 for two and \$45 for three or more from the same family. Registrations forms with all the details will be available the beginning of December.

This event is planned and run by UMYF and the proceeds will be used for youth projects and events.

UMYF TALKING "LISTEN UP"

CALENDAR

sunday, november 27 ABC dinner - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

sunday, december 4 plan shop-til-you-drop

lunch and meeting - 11:45 to 1:30 p.m.

sunday, december 11 christmas event - TBA

sunday, december 18 no meeting

monday, december 19 shop-til-you-drop 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

sunday, december 25 no meeting - merry christmas

WHAT'S UP WITH UMYF?

UMYF has been busy. During October there was cookie baking (the cookies went to an InnVision dinner), a trip to the Corn Maze in Hollister and co-hosting the Autumn Festival. In November the high school youth even went to play paint ball. But having fun is not all the group does...

As many of you know, the youth of our church were busy baking in early November. The result was a bake sale on November 6 during hospitality hour. UMYF decided to donate the proceeds of this fundraiser to the Bill Wilson Center.

Thanks to the generosity of the our congregation, \$326 was raised. During the bake sale we decided that instead of just sending a check; maybe our youth could help make Christmas a little merrier for two youth who are struggling during the holidays. As a result, the UMYF group has "adopted" a 15-year old boy and a 14-year old girl for Christmas through the Bill Wilson Center. They will use the money they raised to purchase gifts for these two youths.

They will never meet the recipients of these gifts, but they will know the warm feeling that comes from celebrating Jesus' birth and sharing God's love with other teens who really need to know that someone cares.

Melinda Knepp, Youth Coordinator <

AUTUMN FESTIVAL



It was a beautiful evening when the youth of Campbell UMC and New Creations, and Children's Ministry hosted this family event. The Fellowship Hall was abuzz. There were games, face painting, crafts, picture taking and of course treats. Outside there was a "cupcake walk" around our big, beautiful tree. Young and old were in costume. There was even a costume parade around the campus. Hot dogs, pizza and hot cider were enjoyed by all. Hopefully this will become an annual event.









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Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

December 14, 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.

