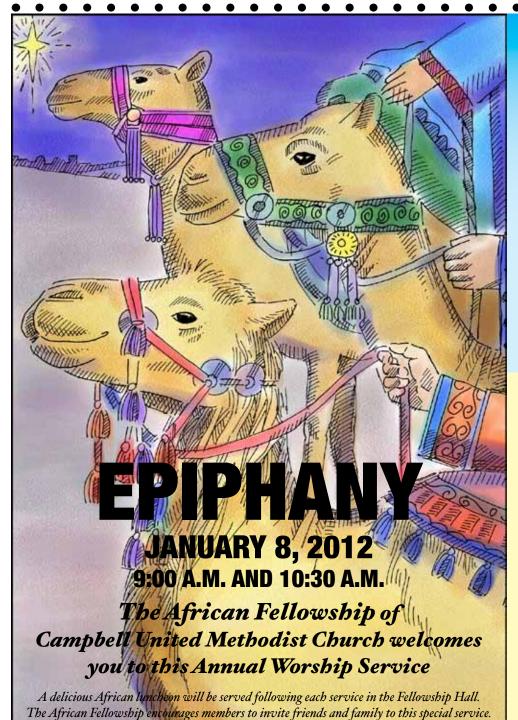
Campbell

CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY, 2012



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★ Special Worship Services for January ★

The first Three Sundays
of January will be "Worship
With A Difference" as each
worship service will have a
special theme unlike other
worship services throughout
the year.

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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

PASTOR, Jim Mishler ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY **Daniel Gbundema CHOIR DIRECTOR, Bill Coye ORGANIST. Mary Ann Gee ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES** Barbara Wade, Church Business **Angelique Dawkins, Church Secretary** CARETAKING COORDINATOR **Ginny Johnson VOLUNTEER YOUTH COORDINATOR** Melinda Knepp **CUSTODIAN**, Hector Estrada

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:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I pray that 2012 will be a year when blessings abound, faith deepens, kindness grows, justice spreads, and love rules. And I pray that we at Campbell UMC play a leading role in making it happen.

I've been spending a great deal of time thinking about how we're going to accomplish this "leading role" in serving God's people. Doing so has led me to believe that we must do "First Things First." Let me explain.

If we are to fully accomplish our goal of "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" there are several key tasks to accomplish first. These "First **Things First"** tasks include:

- Create an all-church environment of Radical Hospitality for Newcomers. New, attractive signs, volunteers greeting guests on the patio, a vibrant fellowship set-up (with great coffee!), child-care at every event and seeing everything through the eyes of a newcomer are all part of this effort. We want them to feel welcome – really, really welcome here.
- Diversify our Worship Practices. We currently have two wonderful traditional worship services. We all love them. But many other persons find alternative ways of worship more appealing. We need to explore adding a worship experience that uses alternative forms of music, more video and perhaps a more relaxed style to connect people with God. A 3rd worship service on Sunday morning? A Friday evening "Soulful Sundown" gathering? We'll need to invest energy and resources to create another door for people to come into Campbell Church.
- Develop a Branches Ministry. We must commit ourselves to developing a vital small group ministry that drives intentional faith development and outreach ministry. This is how faith and churches grow in the 21st Century.
- Begin a new Family Ministry Program that serves both current and future church families. This program will seek to holistically minister to adults, teens and children and will require both staff and generous funding to succeed.
- Clarify our Justice Ministry Strategy. We do good things together for individuals and our community. But we must be clear about what our commitments will be internationally, nationally and locally. We can do much but we can't do it all and we need to focus to succeed.
- **Grow our Generosity.** We experienced a strong Stewardship Campaign for 2012 and our budget reflects growth in funding ministry and services. But we still have a ways to go to restore full funding to our conference responsibilities and identified potential ministries. We need giving to increase even in difficult times.

So, what do you think about what I've been thinking? I'd appreciate hearing from you about your ideas for the future of Campbell UMC.

Email me at: Pastorjim@campbellunited.org with your comments and ideas.

Blessings, Pastor Jim



Thank You for the Tree

The church thanks David Green for the gift of the beautiful Narthex Christmas tree and garland that have added warmth and festivity to the Advent celebrations. •

Methodist Men Meeting

United Methodist Men will meet on Monday, January 9, 2012. The program will be FAREWELL TO FALLS. The speaker is from Stanford Hospital. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Program will be at 7:15 p.m. All men are welcome for dinner (\$10.00) All are welcome for the program. Call Dick for more information at 253-8109.

Dick Meehan 💠

The Human Advent Wreath

This year, at the suggestion of the Worship Committee, we organized a human Advent wreath. That is, rather than having a small collection of four Advent candles in the front of the church, we created four Advent candle stations encircling the sanctuary. Each week the congregation was asked to support one of the many projects for the needy in our community. Church & Society is delighted to report that our responses were significant.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we provided a large quantity of scarves, mittens and socks for the Emergency Housing Coalition.

On the second Sunday of Advent, we collected two carloads of dishes, cups, paper plates, cutlery, plastic cutlery, food, and paper goods, which were desperately needed by InnVision.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we collected over 400 pounds of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

All of these items have been delivered and are much appreciated.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we collected things for Rosemary School, which will be delivered to the school when it reopens in early January following the Christmas holiday.

It is truly gratifying to see so many people rise from the pews during the offering and proceed to the various Advent wreath stations with their donations for the less fortunate. We are not only reminded about how blessed we ourselves are, but also about what an opportunity it is for us to model Christian generosity for the less fortunate.



A big thanks to you all!

Pam Robinson, Church and Society 💠

It's Not the Package, But the Story

When our children were young, and there were few packages under the tree, we delayed the package opening by telling a story about the gift. Perhaps it was finding the right color, or the process of making the gift. For every gift there was a story. The clothes are long outgrown, the toys abandoned, but the stories remain. Today when I give my children a gift they sit patiently and wait for the story.

So now, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts it is your turn to write your stories to share with other Girl Scouts in our church. You might even want to give a copy to your children or grandchildren. Perhaps you do not have a photo of the Girl Scout event, you may not have even owned a camera, but you do have your memories. Write a short story of 300 words or less about a memorable camp out, finding your best friend in your Girl Scout troop, summer camp, or the best food you have ever cooked. What are your dramatic memories of Girl Scouting?

Elaine Hill 💠

Handbell Workshop

Mary Ann Gee, organist and New A'Peal Bell Choir director, will be holding a "bells" workshop on January 28, 2012. Watch the Addendum for more information on this, or call the church office at 408-378-3472. <

Bobbie's Coming!

Care giving can seem daunting and sometimes overwhelming. If you have someone in your life who may need care giving at some point, or if you are interested in using your good heart to bring hope and comfort to a member of our church family who is in crises, or ill, or just plain house bound - then you need to come to the Care Givers Seminar.

The Care Givers Seminar will be led by Bobbie Corson and is to be held in the Fireside Room on Saturday, January 28, 2012. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. for a light breakfast and begin at 9:00 a.m. We will have a break for lunch and end at 4:00 p.m.

You may call the office 408-378-3472 to register, or call Ginny Johnson at 650-207-0348 to save your spot. Registration is limited so don't delay!

Ginny Johnson 💠

Dresses for Africa

Cereus Circle is sewing little dresses for Africa at the February meeting. They are basically sundresses with bias tape around the arm holes and for the ties at the shoulders. There is an elastic casing at the top. There is a dress displayed at the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

If anyone is interested in either cutting them out or stitching them, please contact Jane LaPierre (558-4831, cirrider@att.net or at church on Sunday).

Donations of double bias tape as well as fabric (24" x 42" and larger) suitable for children are welcome. Thank you.

Jane LaPierre 💠

Church Council 2011

The various committees that constitute the Church Council worked very hard this year on church programs, administration and planning. At the



Kiwi Sorting at Second Harvest

On Saturday, November 19, Church & Society organized another group of volunteers to help out at the Second Harvest Food Bank warehouse in San Jose. Each time a Saturday group has gone to Second Harvest, people who haven't volunteered before give it a try — and always enjoy it! And we have a wonderful core group who has become enthusiastic veterans of the food sorting activity.

For this outing, the group of eight was asked to work with "salvage." This entailed going through mixed boxes of items and sorting them by categories. There were medicines for children, the staples, candy, and lots and lots of bottled water! After our break, we sorted kiwis into individual bags. It's always amazing to see the fruit and vegetables that don't tend to make it to the grocery bins. Kiwis can grow to be quite large!

One aspect of this volunteer activity that makes it fun is the opportunity to meet and talk with people and get to know them better -- from within the Campbell United Methodist Church and beyond. The three hours fly by and before you know it, it is time to head home.

When you go to the Second Harvest warehouse, you see firsthand the generosity of individuals, organizations, growers, and grocery stores who work throughout the year to fill the shelves and bins. But what is also apparent is the tremendous need — all that food and produce are needed for hungry families right here in the Santa Clara Valley. As you leave the warehouse, you



know your minimal investment of time means so much to the Second Harvest Food Bank, which relies heavily on volunteers to help get the food sorted so it can get into the hands of those families who need it most.

You can make a difference in people's lives. If you haven't tried this volunteer activity yet, watch for the next invitation to join us early next year.

Gail Jacobs, Church & Society 💠

Thanks to all of you who purchased Gingerbread Men sold in honor of Anita Marencia. \$52 was raised for the General Fund of the church. Flaine Hill

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 Orchard City METHODIST FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA November 1941

FROM 1941

W.T.C.U. stands for The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

"The Methodist and Congregational Churches of Campbell are the beneficiaries of most encouraging sums of money through the dissolution of the local organization of the W.T.C.U. Each church received the sum of \$377.00. Our grateful appreciation is herewith expressed."



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

United Methodist Women

BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN JONES

Here If You Need Me by Kate Braestrup

Category: Nurturing for the Community 2009

Rating: ****stars Review:



HERE IF YOU NEED ME is a book that can be appreciated by many readers for a number of different reasons. Some may appreciate it as a religious memoir, others may relate to her being a single mother rebuilding her life after the tragic death of her husband. People thinking about a mid-life switch in careers could find the book inspiring. New England enthusiasts, especially those who love Maine, will appreciate the book's setting. Those in public safety may believe that

the author is telling their story, perhaps in a different setting with different situations, but still telling a story that only those in this line of work know in exact detail.

The book is more a series of vignettes in more or less a chronological order, beginning with the death of her husband and concluding with her finishing theological school and getting married a second time. Her call to ministry is unconventional at best, which may also be why it's such a perfect fit. Her first husband hoped to retire as a Maine State trooper, get his theology degree, and be a police chaplain. After his death in a car accident, Kate decides to do what he was unable to do. Her own loss helps her minister to people who are facing losses themselves, though her personal tragedy never gets in the way of her ministry to others. She also understands the game wardens she works with because of her husband's experiences in law enforcement. We see in the book that she's often uncertain as to how she should minister. how to respond as a mother, and how to reconcile what she is learning to what she is doing, but she's never uncertain about the importance of what she's doing or the dignity of the people she serves.

I think it is a must read for anyone who enjoys a compelling memoir. Susan Jones 💠



Opportunities for Women's Interfaith Discussions

Many of you are familiar with the organization "Silicon Valley Reads" (http://www.siliconvalleyreads. org/2012-13/), which chooses a book by a local author each year and invites the author to speak at presentations around the Valley. This year they have chosen two books about different aspects of Islam: "The Muslim Next Door" by Sumbul Ali-Karamali and "The Butterfly Mosque" by G. Willow Wilson.

Eight women from among our Muslim friends at Pacifica Institute have expressed an interest in meeting with a group of eight Campbell United Methodist Church women (sorry, women only, out of consideration of our Muslim sisters' sensibilities) to talk about issues raised in these books. The group will probably meet on four Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,

Interfaith Discussions

Continued

location to be decided. The start date will most likely be February 8th, after the January 25th author presentation at the Campbell Heritage Theatre. Stay tuned for more details.

If you are interested in attending these interfaith meetings, please contact either Elaine Bondonno at 408-356-1516 or Sue Edson at 408-378-6349.

"The Muslim Next Door" explains the beliefs and practices of Islam and speaks of the challenges Muslims face living in post-9/11 America. "The Butterfly Mosque" is a memoir by a young American woman, who goes to Cairo to teach English, converts to Islam and marries a Muslim Egyptian. The two books complement each other, since the first is full of facts about Islam and the second is a personal account of a middle-class Californian woman's joys and frustrations in her struggle to assimilate into the culture of Cairo.

Campbell United Methodist Church's Book Group will be talking about the books in its regular meeting on February 27th at 4 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Everyone is invited. There are plenty of copies of both books in the Santa Clara Valley library system, but request them now, because the waiting list is long. 💠

ABOUT PACIFICA INSTITUTE

Pacifica Institute was established in 2003 as a non-profit organization by a group of Turkish-Americans. Pacifica Institute designs and executes projects covering social welfare, education, poverty, and conflict resolution issues in collaboration with scholars, activists, artists, politicians, and religious leaders-communities. The Pacifica Institute has a proven track record of working within and across communities. This work is planned and complemented through the input of the Board of Advisors, a distinguished group of individuals representing a wide range of expertise and experience.

For more information go to: http://www.pacificainstitute.org/

Circuit Writer



Light and Darkness Rev. Larry LaPierre

Light and darkness are important themes in the Bible. We have only to listen to John's Gospel ("The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (1:5)) or the 1st Letter of John ("God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all." (1:5b)) to get the point. However, the Old Testament has its share of reminders that we live in a world of light and darkness as well. The writer of Genesis 1 recorded that "God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness." (v. 4)¹ The Psalmist proclaims in Psalm 27:1a, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

At this time of year we face the twin realities of darkness and light. We feel them as shorter and sometimes darker days depending on the weather. We experience darkness in our minds and spirits as some of us wrestle with Seasonal Affective Disorder or even Depression. It's even a theological issue as the Christmas story proclaims light in the midst of the darkness of a seriously damaged economy.

How does the light of Christmas fit into all of these experiences of darkness? To some of us, it doesn't! The darkness is so overwhelming that, on our own, we simply cannot see a way to bring the light of God's love into our own personal darkness.

This is where people of faith who dwell in the light are vital. We offer a testimony that the light of God's love is real. It's not that we don't know about the darkness. Speaking as one who has lived with depression, I know something about what darkness can be like. Speaking as a retired board-certified chaplain and as one who worked with veterans afflicted with depression and PTSD, I have a feel for how bad it can get.

The writer of Psalm 23 is well known for the fourth verse that proclaims, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil . . . " The alternative translation of that verse is "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of darkness, I will fear no evil ..." The Psalmist knew that darkness was real. It still is!

I've never had difficulty finding people who know something about the darkness and are willing to talk about it. Sometimes it's a little more difficulty to find people who know about the light and are willing to talk about it. That's where we come in. Christians can either be swept away by the tide of commercialism at Christmas or we can link arms in prayer and proclamation to show people that there is light—the light of God's love. It shouldn't be an afterthought because, despite the tinsel, the toys and the turkey, darkness stands ready to encroach at Christmas and throughout the year. People of faith simply must be a lens to focus God's light in the inner and outer darkness.

Rev. Larry LaPierre 💠



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annual charge conference in November we approved the new membership list of 525 official members and Pastors Jim and Daniel's compensation packages for 2012. The great results of the Commitment Sunday pledges allowed us to approve a budget next year that includes maintaining staff levels and provides additional funds for children's programs, African Fellowship and outreach.

We are excited about 2012 with a new pastor and his wife residing in the church's own parsonage. The launch of a new photo directory will happen in the first quarter and a Confirmand class of 6th, 7th and 8th graders will graduate in May. The Church Council meeting on January 25th, 2012 will look forward into the coming year and outline the direction and journey for the church. We will look at ways to maximize our meeting times so we can spend less time in meetings and more time on

transforming the world through Jesus Christ. Please join us and be a part of this plan.

Happy New Year - Bruce Hallinan 💠

HELP! More Ushers Needed

More Ushers are needed for both the 9 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services. There are vacancies for the months of January, April, July and October.

If you already have experience it would be fantastic, but if none, training will be supplied by Head Ushers, Mark Adams and Bill Waldrop, If interested, call Mark for 9 a.m. service at 408-445-8545, or Bill for 10:30 a.m. service at irisbearwaldrop@comcast.net. Please use email for Bill.

A special "Thanks" to the following Ushers for the 2011 year: Lenora Blouin, Greg Catcott, Chuck and Sue Edson, Jimmy Kay, Karl Schlager, Fran Sneed, Donna Marencia, and Lou Woodburycatcott. Also, thanks to Michael Schlager, Gail Jacobs, Roxanne Kohlin, and former Head Usher Jerry Giles as the alternates. �

Planning Check List

With all of the changes in the financial world this year, it is a good time to update your estate plans. The following check list is a good place to start.

- Review your current will and trust. Your will or trust may need to be updated because of changes in the
- Inventory and make a written record of the content of any safe-deposit box. Give a copy to a trusted family member.
- Review and update beneficiaries of your life insurance policies and retirement plan assets.
- Make sure your durable power of attorney or health care and living will are current.
- Review and revise existing business buy-sell agreements.
- Review carefully any annual exclusion gifts to your heirs.
- Offset your capital gains with losses
- Finish charitable contributions by December 31, 2011

A gift to the Campbell UMC Endowment Fund can support the church forever. Terry Johnson, Endowment Committee 🧇

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Connections

Art and Spirit Ministry at Elmwood

"We bring them a tiny, tiny bit of hope and they load us up with joy and love!"

The Elmwood Art and Ministry team has recently completed several sessions of workshops at Elmwood and participated in the Chaplain's Summit for medium-security women.



In the fall session we literally and figuratively: "wove" community, focusing on 1 Corinthian 13: Love never gives up. The result was a weaving created by the women for their worship room and connections forged through fellowship and love.



In November, Campbell United **Methodist Church volunteers** participated in the first ever Women's Summit at Elmwood. Sherry Finzel captures that weekend here:

Chaplain Louann Roberts, from **Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy** (CIC) Ministries, had a vision of providing a weekend of programming for the women in medium security at Elwood Correctional Facility that came to fruition November 19th and 20th. Elaine Bondonno, Kathleen McDavid, and Sherry Finzel were invited to be part of the planning committee for the inaugural Chaplains' Women's Summit, and after generating a long list of topics thought to be of interest to the women, Chaplain Roberts generated a survey for the women to vote on the topics of greatest interest to them. After realizing our ambition exceeded the time allotted, we finally settled on six classes to be delivered three times each across the three dorms.

Chaplain Roberts devoted countless hours toward this effort, coordinating staffing and logistics in the jail with Lt. Kristine Pantiga and inviting media to

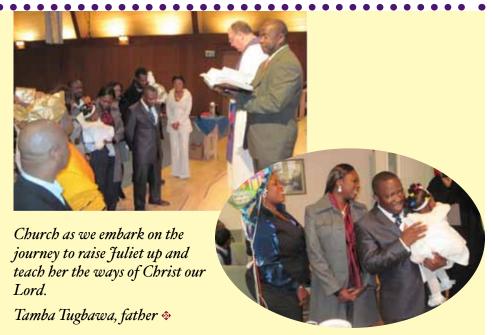
observe and Sheriff Laurie Smith to open the event on Saturday morning. Due to family circumstances, Elaine was unable to attend the summit, and Kathleen McDavid stepped forward to facilitate the Zentangle class in Elaine's stead. Sherry facilitated a coping class that included development of a personal safety plan. The Campbell United Methodist Church volunteer group also included Ginny Johnson, Sue Foyle, Gillian Harrington, Gail Jacobs, Sheri Woodhouse, Katie D'Silva and Lou Woodburycatcott complementing volunteers from a variety of churches to support the event. They each gave of themselves generously and significantly, assisting with class facilitation, group discussion, and support for the instructors. In addition to the classes mentioned, the schedule included health issues, a faith panel, Zumba dance, and job skills facilitated by community and church volunteers. The summit culminated with three worship services held by world-renowned televangelist, Pastor Melissa Scott.

Based on evaluations completed

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A Memorable Occasion for The African Fellowship

On behalf of my family and on my personal behalf, I want to thank Pastor Jim, Pastor Gbundema, and the entire membership of Campbell UMC for making my daughter's Baptism a memorable occasion. Her Baptism is an affirmation of our commitment to bring her up in the Church and have her participate fully in Church activities as she grows up. We are very grateful to be surrounded by our church family at Campbell United Methodist



Art and Spirit Ministry at Elmwood

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by the women, the summit was enormously well-received. We were asked whether we would be returning the following weekend, next month, ever.... Expressions of creativity, engagement, openness, and gratitude touched us all deeply, and we each came away from the event with very personal stories of connection and change. To bring God's loving presence into this otherwise stark and sedentary environment was indeed a blessing.



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

"At the Summit, I felt that weird feeling you get when you realize that God has tapped you to stand in for Her and show her face to someone She wants to touch. You know, temp angel duty! Being able to share that experience with ladies who don't see themselves as people who have options and who can now see that when they are ready to make other decisions about their lives there are people ready to welcome them and encourage them is definitely temp angel work! It was fun, but it felt like an honor too.

I was shocked at the joy that poured out of those ladies as they made beautiful things and even surprised themselves with their own talent!! We bring them a tiny, tiny bit of hope and they load us up with joy and love. Seems a little uneven but it sure inspires us to do more. Everyone dreams of making a difference, but this is

a difference in Technicolor."

"This collaboration with our group of amazing and dedicated Campbell UMC women is inspiring. Inspiring, too, are the words, works, and expressions of the incarcerated women with whom we work. To feel God quiding our efforts and to see the glorious creations resulting from our collective endeavors bring me great joy. I am humbled and grateful to be a part of this ministry, and I look forward to seeing our outreach flourish."

"The Elmwood ministry is a reminder to us all that our real "job" in life is to love others without judging; judging is not what God asks us to do. Everyone deserves love and kindness. Where they are, who they are, what they do, or have done is not our spiritual business – it is God's business and their business. This is great news, and it frees us all to give and love with our whole hearts. Being selective about who we love and care for would only get in the way of connecting with God and loving others... our real job." 🗇





JANUARY BEGINS WITH SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

continued from p. 1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012 10:00 AM

Wesleyan Covenant Service

We'll begin the New Year by participating in a Wesleyan Covenant Service as we commit ourselves and Campbell UMC to a year of renewed Christian Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012 9:00 AM AND 10:30 AM

Epiphany Sunday

We'll celebrate the good news that the Christ Child is for all people, recall the visit of the Wise Men and enjoy the worship leadership of the African Fellowship

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

9:00 AM AND 10:30 AM

Human Relations Sunday

We'll join with the entire United Methodist Church in affirming our commitment to justice for all people, receive a special offering to further the work for justice and remind ourselves of Martin Luther King's words that, "Justice denied anywhere is justice denied everywhere."

> You Won't Want To Miss These Services See You In Church



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Mailing Date: December 21, 2011

Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

January 11, 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.





APSARA Season's Greetin to you all!

THOUGH THE THANK you for your love, prayer, care

PONLEU WHITE PRINTING HOUSE

and generous Support to our covenant Relationship

and our oninistry in Cambodia.

Hay God bless you im this Christman Season

and im the new year and help us to bring

Peace to our world Soon.

With love's appreciation

Joseph C. Chan

Joseph C. Chan

GREETINGS FROM CAMBODIA

MARILYN S. CHON