

# Campbell



# CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY, 2014

*Come Celebrate*

# African EPIPHANY

**Sunday, January 5, 2014  
at 10:00 A.M.**

*Enjoy African Spiritual Songs*

*Campbell United Methodist Church welcomes  
you to this Annual Worship Service*

*Celebrate with African food following the service in the Fellowship Hall*



*A freewill donation will be available. Proceeds go to 2014 operating budget*

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## Campbell Connections

A monthly publication of  
Campbell United Methodist Church  
Editor - Heather Reynolds  
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Gail Jacobs

The Campbell Connections is mailed the 3rd Wednesday\* of each month. Deadline to submit an article is 4 p.m. on the 1st 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 2nd 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, Paul Kim**  
**PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY, Daniel Gbundema**  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR, Bill Coye**  
**ORGANIST, Mary Ann Gee**

### ADMINISTRATOR OF CHURCH BUSINESS

**Barbara Wade**  
**FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR Julie Lattin**  
**VOLUNTEER YOUTH COORDINATOR Melinda Knepp**  
**CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada**

**Church Office: 408 378-3472**  
**Web Site: [www.campbellunited.org](http://www.campbellunited.org)**

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**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.**  
**Adult Sunday School: 8:50 a.m.**  
**Children's Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.**  
**African Ministry: 11:30 a.m.**  
**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](http://www.brightdayspreschool.com)



## Pastor's Pen

### 2014: Biblefresh: A Year of the Bible

*Like a faded photograph that has become unrecognizable in an old family album, sometimes the Bible seems like an ancient book that relates to bygone times, and is easily dismissed at first glance. How can we come at the Bible with fresh eyes?*

*In this sense, the pastor's job is to help members move from a faded, uninteresting monochrome relic to a vivid full-color experience of the Bible which makes profound personal sense.*

*You don't have to leave your brains, beliefs, or thinking at the doors. Actually, the narratives, stories, and experiences within the pages of the Bible become alive only when you are willing to engage in conversation with the God of the Bible with your true self.*

*No doubt, the Bible is a strange landscape of a strange land. Yet despite our initial skepticism, we will begin to see that these images are remarkably similar to the visual landscape of our everyday lives. Once we are able to "live" in the strange landscape of the Bible for ourselves, we will see just how strikingly familiar the Bible is, in terms of its relational, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and political dimensions. And when we begin to enter a conversation with the God of the Bible, we will discover that the Story in the Bible starts to become our story.*

*And then we find ourselves in the amazing territory of the third photograph. This mock thermal image of the human body conveys the profound self-understanding which occurs when the Bible ceases to be simply an ancient book and becomes an inner encounter with the passion and purpose at the heart of the universe itself. It helps unveil who we are and what our relationship is to God and each other. Energized by the Spirit and excited by Grace to the core of our being, we will find ourselves following in the footsteps of Jesus. At this point, faith ceases to be a faded image and a worthless curio and becomes our whole reason for being.*

*The Bible is always fresh. I invite all of us to a spiritual journey of learning and discovery to make the Bible fresh in our daily lives in 2014. Here are some ways:*

1. Join a Kaleidoscope Group (sign up during January) or start one among your friends or at work. Each week, you gather around a Bible passage – in person or in cyberspace. You read it three times aloud. First time, it is read aloud, you listen for an image, a word, a phrase. Then share it briefly. The second time it is read aloud, you ask a question that the passage asks; then share that with each other. The last time it is read, you ask, "What is God asking of me – to do, to be, to change – through this passage?" Then you share that with your group. You don't have to know anything about the Bible. What is required is that you bring yourself. Then be present with your friends and join in a conversation with God's Spirit. Amazing things can happen. You'll meet the Bible in a new and fresh way. Sign up.
2. Listen to the Bible, 15 minutes a day, using an online Bible (download it free at <http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/>); or pick up a CD (at the church office). Or pick up a Bible reading schedule from the Welcome Table or the church office.
3. Use the Taking Your Faith Home devotional sheet that is in your bulletins every week. Let the Word become a part of your life – slowly and surely.
4. Join one of our ongoing Bible study groups – the Wednesday 8 am Sunrise Seekers; Sunday morning Adult Bible Study at 8:50 am; the Women's Bible study group on Tuesdays at 10 am.
5. Pick up a Bible and dare to join the conversation with God. If you want to try a new translation, our late Jan Grodeon loved the Common English Bible and recommended it highly.

*May you find God in a new way through the Bible in 2014.*  
*Pastor Paul*

[Thanks to Pastor Dave Perry for insights shared about the Bible in his blog - <http://visualtheology.blogspot.com/2011/01/biblefresh-year-of-bible.html>]



# On the CAMPUS

## Giving Tuesday Success!

Historic Giving Tuesday Success! Thanks to the generosity of United Methodists around the world, the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) recorded the best single-day online total of giving since 1948 (which is as far back as the records go).

Over 11,000 persons in 34 countries gave a total of \$6.5 million to 880 projects. The GBGM matched the first \$500,000 received. (The next best single-day of online giving was after the Haiti earthquake in January, 2010, when the GBGM received \$492,882 in a 24-hour period.)

Thanks to apportionments and One Great Hour of Sharing, which cover the administrative costs of the General Board of Global Ministries, 100% of all donations received will go to the projects designated.

Thomas Kemper, head of Global Ministries, said the response by United Methodists exceeded the GBGM's wildest dreams. He also noted that while Giving Tuesday is a single day, the monies donated on that day will be used in ministries that are transforming the world year-round - gifts and love without end. ❖

## Estate Planning

The end of the year 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 tax laws, family changes, etc.
- 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.

A gift to the Campbell UMC Endowment Fund can support the church forever.

The Endowment Committee ❖

## Medical Equipment

Medical Equipment available ~ Three pieces of medical equipment were recently donated to the church, for anyone who would like to use them: a walker, a shower chair, and a bedside commode (not used). If you are interested in any or all of them, please contact the church office. ❖

## Give Blood Red Cross Blood Drive

Gift the best gift of all this Christmas season: the gift of life. Give blood at the annual Red Cross Holiday Blood Drive, on Saturday, December 28th, in the Fellowship Hall, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All presenters will receive a free long-sleeved Red Cross Tee-shirt while supplies last. To schedule an appointment, go to: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). The Community Code for our donation site is Campbell Community. Or search by zip code (95008) and date to find our site to schedule an appointment.

The holidays are critical times for the local blood supply. Corporations and schools, which hold regular drives, close for the duration of the holidays, and individuals put off donating because of busy schedules and multiple commitments. The

need for blood increases between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, more drivers are on the road in general, and they are also driving unfamiliar roads while travelling, or after consuming alcohol.

Night-time driving after parties amplifies vision problems. All of which lead to a greater number of traffic accidents and fatalities, and the need for blood.

As you so often hear this season, although in a different context, Please Give Generously! And give the best gift of all. ❖

## Pledge Catch Up



For those of you who are current with your giving, THANK YOU!

If you are not, please try to catch up in the next few weeks so that we can end our year on a good financial note.

If you aren't sure if you are current or not, check with Diana Lovelady, Financial Secretary, or look at your quarterly statement that was mailed in October.

Our giving has fallen off in October and November - months that usually see increased giving and which provide momentum for a good finish in December. We would like to turn the recent trend around and make our budget for December - thank you for your help in doing so!

We have other forms of income - facility rental fees, fundraising, SCRIP, and the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings - but 85% of our total budget comes from pledges and non-pledges. (Non-pledge income is from donations made by those who give regularly, but don't turn in a pledge card.) ❖

# Circuit Writer



## The Lights of Christmas

Rev. Larry LaPierre

Light is an essential element of Christmas for me. Yes, I enjoy the colored lights on a Christmas tree and on homes, but light at Christmas is more than just a signal of the retail season of Christmas. It is a sign of the presence of God at the heart of the Biblical stories of Christmas. My earliest memories of Christmas are of a star—the one that guided those people of wisdom (astrologers; in Greek “magi”) to travel from the East to find the “the child who was born king of the Jews.” (Matthew 2:1-2) Stars give off a lot of light. I certainly didn’t understand how. I just knew that they did. I believed then that the star was important to Jesus’ birth story. I still do.

Luke 2:1-14 is another text where I associated light with Christmas. Luke said that a “multitude of the heavenly host” (vs. 13) appeared after the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Maybe I saw a painting somewhere of the angels appearing to the shepherds with lots of light in the sky. Or it might have been from singing “The First Noel” where we sing about how the star “gave great light” in verse 2.

On a less Biblical but still personally memorable level, I recall as a child being truly amazed at the amount of light that flooded our local church at midnight worship on Christmas Eve. Even as I’ve got older and know more about the nature of light and the amount of power needed to generate it, I still am impressed by how the light illuminated every corner of our sanctuary. It was so intense that I never thought about the darkness just outside the church walls.

Yet there is darkness just outside the church walls, isn’t there? Oh, yes. All we need to do is to walk away from an ATM machine without closing our account to have the darkness invade. We experience the darkness within our own homes if we live in a family dominated by substance abuse. Some of us seem to invite spiritual darkness into our

homes when we deliberately turn away from the love of God. Nor, as I write this article, is there enough of God’s light being welcomed into the souls of people who detonate themselves in Iraq or fight endless battles in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc. Hate crimes remind us of the depths into which we can fall in our spiritual darkness.

Yet, darkness cannot overcome God’s light. God’s light (“in him there is no darkness at all” 1 John 1:5) illuminates our spiritual path every day. God’s light has come, but we need to invite it into our personal and collective darkness every day. It begins by realizing that we live with darkness. We then invite God to illuminate our darkness—perhaps with the help of a pastor or a spiritual guide—but certainly by reading or hearing the Gospels.

Yes, it can be painful to look into our inner and collective darkness. On the other hand, how else can we escape the shadows of unforgiven sin and spiritual emptiness that threaten to keep us away from relying on the Light of God? God’s gift of light makes it possible to escape those shadows. The question is, “Will we allow that light into our souls as well as pray for that light to illumine the souls of others?”

Rev. Larry LaPierre ♦



## What to say when you don't know what to say

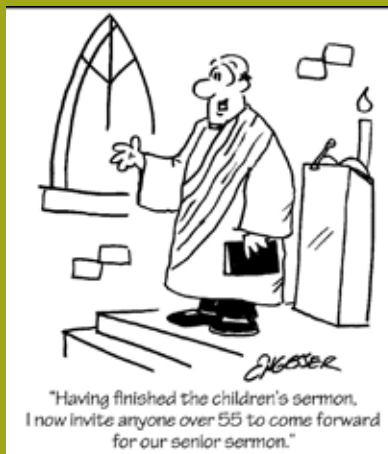
This must be an issue for our society because I found a whole book, “The Etiquette Of Illness” dedicated to just this subject. The author, Susan P. Halpern, starts with these two chapters: Finding the Words, and Acts of Kindness. Her message is don’t stay away from friends when they are in crisis. Reach out with kindness. Let them know you are thinking of them and care deeply about them. Say, “I’ve been thinking of you” to initiate a conversation. Take guidance from your friends as to whether they want to share their story. Sometimes, just a hug will speak reams of care. A nod, a smile. Being left alone because others are uncomfortable with speaking to someone who is ill or grieving is not the answer. Let them know you care in a simple way. Usually the less said the better.

There are undoubtedly “don’ts” in the book. Before you speak, think of what would be most helpful to you if you were in that position. Not a story about someone you know who suffered through the same illness; not an opinion about the results of treatment; surely not a treatise on the Will of God. Often, “I am holding you in prayer”, or “You are in my prayers” is a comfort and creates a bond. Explaining is not necessary.

A second topic: Our care ministry is creating resource files of agencies and individuals that can aid families with health home care. Some of you have had excellent experiences with health care workers and we would like you to give us contact information which we will keep in the office. Recently we have received several requests for referrals, and are thinking that networking this important need would be of help to those who are making care decisions for family members.

Ellen Droke, eadroke@aol.com  
 Claudia Slayman, claudia.slayman@gmail.com  
 408-378-3472x23 ♦

## CARTOON CORNER



# FUN AT MERRY MAYHEM



After time spent creating ornaments, decorating cookies and having fun - children of all ages gathered for singing and refreshments.

A merry time was had by all!

Thanks to all who shared their talents and generosity to make the afternoon memorable.



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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.

## HISTORY HELPERS

"snippets from our past"

### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sanctuary Panels - Tell the Story

Eight panels, symbolizing 125 years of our church history, currently hang on the side walls in the Sanctuary. The "1940s" panel illustrates growth in numbers, and the church's 60th anniversary at the time.

The Reverend Donald Baldwin and family arrived in June, 1941, shortly before Pearl Harbor and our country's entry into the Second World War. One of Reverend Baldwin's innovations was the creation of our first church newsletter in November, 1941. The cover page read--

#### INTRODUCTION:

"The Orchard City Methodist" makes its initial appearance. From time to time, as news, plans, and important announcements warrant, it will appear. It will bring previews of things ahead and reviews of things past.

Items of news concerning the people of the church will be most welcome. Kindly feel free to hand such notes to the minister.

It is hoped that through the careful reading of this little journal a unity of feeling will exist between all of the members and friends of the church, and that everyone will feel himself more a part of that which is being done in the church.

The church grew during the pastorates of Reverend Baldwin, (1941-1945), and Reverend L. J. Osborne (1945-1951). 500 persons attended the 60th anniversary celebration in 1948. By 1951, when the Reverend Herbert W. Neale began his appointment here, Campbell Methodist had 372 members. ❖

