

# Campbell



# CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2014

## HOME COMING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2014



## WELCOME BACK

*On Sunday, September 7th, we celebrate "Homecoming" as a church family. Join us for Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. when the Chancel Choir returns, Sunday School begins a new school year, and it is an opportunity to make new connections, try a different class, or find new ways to be of service. Missions Commission is sponsoring a free luncheon with entertainment and will highlight some of the ministries they support. Come celebrate with Chicken a la King, pizza for youngsters and dessert from the chocolate fountain!*

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## Campbell Connections

A monthly publication of  
Campbell United Methodist Church  
Editor - Heather Reynolds  
Copy Proofing - 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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Campbell United Methodist Church, 2014.

\*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**

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**PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY,**  
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**CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada**

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

❖  
**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.**  
**Quiet Communion: 6:00 p.m. Tuesday**

**Bright Days Preschool**  
Mary Smith, Director: 408-378-8422  
[www.brightdayspreschool.com](http://www.brightdayspreschool.com)



## Kathi's Pastoral Reflections

That familiar feeling, as we make the turn into fall.

It doesn't matter how many years you've been out of school...there's still that sense that September is the time when things begin again. We settle into a new, but familiar, rhythm of work and play. We renew a commitment to learn and grow.

**September 7** is the day that everything will begin again in our church programs. On that Sunday, every group in the church will be open to new participants and members. You'll have an opportunity to start, from a new beginning, in something that perhaps you've thought about before but never quite been ready to make a commitment to. To join a group that will stretch you beyond the ways you've been comfortable participating already.

What might that be for you?

Music? Studying the Bible or a book that will challenge your faith? Joining a group that will connect you to new people? Volunteering your time in a new way?

Along with you, I'm going to do something this year that I've never done before. I've always wanted to preach a series of sermons that lay out the Christian story from the beginning. Whether we recently wandered into a church or have been there for years, I think sometimes that listening to sermons can seem sort of like overhearing a conversation mid-stream, as though there were some important piece of the conversation, some clue to its meaning, that happened at the beginning and that we missed.

In a new book called *We Make the Road by Walking*, Brian McLaren has laid out, week by week, a path through the whole story of God and God's hope for humanity, in the Christian tradition. Here's a bit from the introduction:

*What we all want is pretty simple, really. We want to be alive. To feel alive. Not just to exist but to thrive, to live out loud, walk tall, breathe free. We want to be less lonely, less exhausted, less conflicted or afraid...more awake, more grateful, more energized and purposeful. ...*

*Christianity began as a revolutionary nonviolent movement promoting a new kind of aliveness on the margins of society. ... It had no elaborate hierarchy and organization, but it spread like wildfire...using a simple curriculum or meaningful stories, healing teachings, and transformative practices.*

Yes...this is the movement I want to be part of. I'll be using this book as a guide in my preaching, all year long. Join me--won't you?—in this new leg of our journey as Campbell United Methodist Church.

So glad to be here with you--Kathi



## New Arm Chairs for the Fireside Room

There are now four new arm chairs in the Fireside Room which match the existing chairs. These chairs are available for people who need additional support when getting in and out of the chairs. Ina and Marv Tanner have made a gift of these chairs in recognition of their 60th wedding anniversary in September. Thank you Marv and Ina! ❖

## Joyful Notes Choir is Starting!



If you like to sing and have fun, then come and join the Joyful Notes Choir on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 at the church.

The Joyful Notes Choir is open to all children, ages K-8th grade. Throughout the year we will prepare music to sing in worship, play games, have seasonal parties, and in May we will present the children's musical!

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 3rd at 4:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Admin/Music Building. Snacks are served by the playground from 3:45-4:00 p.m. each week.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Mrs. Groff, Director, Joyful Notes Choir at 408-395-9215 or dcgroff@yahoo.com ❖

## Disciple Bible Study

After a hiatus of a year off, I will once again be teaching Disciple classes but this time it will be

*Disciple 1.* A few months before Pastor Kim passed away he called me to ask if I would be interested in team teaching *Disciple 1* with him because it had not been offered in a few years. Initially I had been tentatively preparing for *Disciple 4* but I agreed with Pastor Kim that an introductory course to the Bible was overdue.

Some of you may have already taken *Disciple 1* but I suspect it's been years ago so please consider taking it again. The workbook and DVD have been updated (2005) so they may shed new light on the readings. For those of you who have not taken it, I cannot stress enough how valuable it is and how your knowledge and understanding of the Old and New Testaments will grow.

In the next month I will be putting weekly reminders in the church bulletin; and on September 7<sup>th</sup>, I will have a sign-up sheet for those of you who are interested. Tentatively on September 10<sup>th</sup> there will be an Orientation class where you can buy the workbook and get an overview of the class. The actual class will begin on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Commitment? Yes, it is a commitment because it involves reading the assigned scriptures every day along with the accompanying chapter in the workbook. You can manage this if you spend approximately thirty minutes on each day's readings. I have asked myself, is devoting thirty minutes a day to God's word taking away too much from my own busy day? Maybe I should have asked myself, is my busy day taking too much away from spending at least half an hour with God each day?

If you want to ask questions or need more information you can call me at my home number: 408-371-9908 and leave a message if I'm

unavailable. You can also talk to me at church on Sundays.

It's a valuable experience!

Lenora P. Blouin

Disciple Class Teacher ❖

## Happy Birthday to Bright Days Preschool



It was twenty years ago this month that Bright Days Preschool opened its doors as a licensed facility to teach young children in our community and surrounding neighborhoods. As with our children, the program has grown over the years. We began with small class sizes and a handful of dedicated teachers, to now serving more than 85 families from the Campbell, San Jose and Los Gatos areas with a committed staff of eleven teachers.

It's time to celebrate our twenty years of operation!

All Campbell United Methodist Church parishioners are welcome to come and are warmly invited to attend the Bright Days' 20th Birthday Celebration on Children's Sabbath, Sunday, October 12. The day's celebration will begin with thanksgiving and blessings during morning services at 10:00 a.m.

Following morning services, all are invited to share in a no-cost Mexican taco bar lunch, hosted by Bright Days, served at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Activities for the young and young at heart will be available from noon-1:00 p.m. including games, arts and crafts, and more!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this special occasion.

Mary Smith, Bright Days Director ❖

*continued on p.4*

# On the **CAMPUS**

continued from p.3

## Estate Planning

Estate planning is essential to the health of a family. Organizing and preparing for changes in our lives minimize the conflicts and confusion. Now is a good time to think about what you want to happen and how it will happen. Estate planning is a process of discussing various topics with your attorney and family. Some areas to consider are:

- Discuss with your attorney the best way for you to handle your estate: with a will or living trust.
- During the process of setting up your estate plan be sure to include a durable power of attorney for business matters and one for health matters.
- One of the essential things in this planning is making sure you state clearly how you feel about life-prolonging measures.
- Make sure you include a long-term care in your planning.
- Have you included your church among those designated to share in your estate?

Anyone can give an endowment gift. Any size gift may be made to the Endowment Fund. Consider doing this as part of your estate planning.

Endowment Fund Committee ❖

## CARTOON CORNER



## Care Giving Ministries Seeks To Expand

On Saturday, October 18, we will have an all-day retreat for current care givers and orientation for new ones.

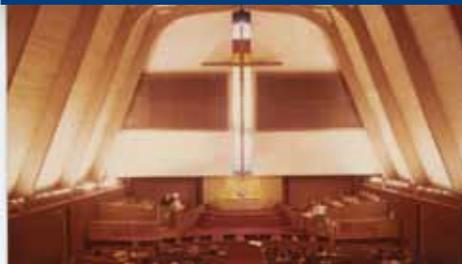
Kathi McShane is a trained Stephen Ministry Leader and will be offering us her experience and training in lay care ministry. We are exceedingly fortunate to have a pastor with this expertise in pastoral ministry. She brings strength and understanding to our team approach in giving spiritual and emotional care.

On Sunday, September 7, the church will celebrate Homecoming, the beginnings of groups and full activities. This Homecoming, Rally Day and Fall Kick-off event will feature information on the many places in the church that YOU can connect in new ways. Please look for more information about Care Giving Ministries at our information table. You may ask current caregivers about their experiences.

If you feel an interest in giving care to another by your presence and in developing a caring relationship with someone who might need the fellowship of the church at a crucial time, please discuss with Kathi McShane (408) 332-2280, Claudia Slayman (408) 460-3913, or Ellen Droke (408) 241-4055.

Ellen Droke, Care Giving Ministries ❖

## CUMC SNAPSHOTS An Historical Skip Around Campus



SANCTUARY 1963 TO 1987



SANCTUARY 1987 TO PRESENT

### Additions or changes included:

- Pipe organ replaced electronic organ
- Improved acoustic surfaces installed
- Chancel area expanded
- Choir seating changed to face the congregation
- New chancel furnishings replaced the old ones
- New overhead lighting installed
- Pews angled toward each other
- Blue for new carpet, wall color, and pew upholstery
- Cry Room and Usher's Room added

(Source of information--Bob Renfer's article on Building Projects in "125 Years and Counting")

Susan Sargent, Historian ❖

# In the COMMUNITY

## NOTES FROM ELMWOOD JAIL MINISTRY

Usually we don't do any Art and Spirit Workshops at Elmwood in the summer. Many of our volunteers are traveling and we take time to plan new workshops and new art projects. This year has been very different.

We are working on a special project for the Maximum Security exercise yard. The "yard" is tiny and the gray walls that surround it are probably 30 feet tall. In the maximum security unit the ladies are let out by themselves. They can see the sky, but everything else is gray. Imagine being in a gray cell, all alone, and then being able to see the sky, but only through wire mesh, and you are still in a gray enclosure. Our plan is to bring color into this environment by making a large mural that will be painted on strips and then applied to the wall like wallpaper. We have an artist designing the strips and we are hoping to take it to churches on Sundays and give people a chance to do some of the painting -- like a collective paint-by-numbers piece. The Lieutenant is so excited by the project that she wants us to do ALL the courtyards!

The officers are so supportive of our ministry -- here is one example. We received a special request to go into a protective custody unit for a one-day workshop. We were in the oldest part of the jail, and we didn't have many details until the day we were to go in. Since we had a small group of only 12 ladies, we decided to do a mini transformation workshop and have them make butterflies. The officer found a room with tables for us but the heat was almost unbearable. I have to admit I whined and complained (in my head) the whole time! The ladies didn't complain once! We did scripture reading and they opened right up. They asked if

they were going to be able to keep the paper the scripture was typed on and the answer was yes! We sang songs they didn't know. They joined in as soon as they could and sang from their hearts. Then asked if we could sing them again!

The women decorated paper to make butterflies and then shared freely with each other when it was time to glue the paper to the white butterflies. They worked hard to figure out the origami butterflies and were thrilled to learn they would be able to keep one of their creations. One of the ladies asked if we could make something out of the butterflies for their officer because he was so supportive. (This couldn't happen because the officers are not allowed to accept anything from the inmates.) When we came to our final prayer, two ladies asked if they could offer a prayer too, and so we received the blessings of these open hearts. We ran out of time and weren't able to sing the last song, "This Little Light Of Mine" so they sang it as they walked back to their unit. We could hear their voices ringing down the corridor.

The officer caught us as we were leaving and told us about the complete lack of programs for this unit. Because of this ministry, he believes he will be able to convince the "powers that be" that the women in this unit could act appropriately and that they could only benefit from programs. He asked us if we would be able to come back. He even said he would try to do something about the heat and the noise (which sounded like pipes so I don't know how he would do anything about that!). We could see how much he cared. These women are not throwaway people to him. They are people who need a chance.

We walked out of there wanting to do more. We need more volunteers. We need more teams. We go in about

five times a year. Each workshop has 32 inmates in it. We have three teams but many of us are on two teams and many of us have jobs and can't go in during the week.

There are thousands of inmates. We are a drop in the bucket. That bucket is really, really empty!

So again I ask you to pray for us. Pray that we find more people who can answer the call to come to the "least of these." Pray that more people come to believe that it isn't scary; that it does make a difference; that if it was their child, they would want someone to care.

And while you're at it, pray for the officers who never give up believing and never give up caring. You find heroes in the darndest places!

Ginny Johnson, Art & Spirit Ministry Volunteer for CIC Ministries ❖

## THANK YOU FROM THE CHEERFUL ULTRA MIGHTY WINNERS



Thank you, CUMC friends, for your support of the Cheerful Ultra Mighty Winners, our UMW sponsored team that participated in the Campbell *Relay for Life* on July 12 and 13. Our team of 12 raised \$2,420.70 towards the Relay total of \$218,055.56 for the American Cancer Society to be used for research, education, and support in the fight against cancer. We also rang our bells and sang "Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead!", and other bell songs, while walking our Ring-a-ding lap. We lit luminaries after dark, and some of us stayed for the whole 24 hours of Relay. We joined other women, men, and youth in the campaign to end cancer.

*The mission statement of Relay is Celebrate • Remember • Fight Back.*

WE DID.

Susan Sargent, Team Captain, CUMW ❖  
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# Circuit Writer



## The Risk of Not Praying

Rev. Larry LaPierre

According to 20th century writer Carlo Carretto we can forget God by not praying. Is that enough of a risk to get our attention? It's true that some of us are so busy that we forget to pray for a while. It's probably also true that some of us believe that we don't know how to pray. We might even feel like our faith is too weak to pray.

However, there are consequences to not practicing any discipline whether it's for the mind, the body or the spirit. When I don't do my stretching and strengthening exercises for a few days, I feel the effects. My problems with balance get worse, and I tire more easily. Is it likely to be any less true with our souls? Not praying regularly damages our spiritual well-being by weakening our relationship with God.

Carretto wrote, "If you don't pray, if you are not searching for a personal relationship with God, (if you don't) study (God), understand (God), little by little you will start forgetting God, your memory will weaken, you will no longer recognize (God). You will not be able to because you will no longer know how to love."<sup>1</sup> We may find it difficult to imagine after believing in God for decades that we could be that disconnected from God.

Perhaps it will make more sense if we think of prayer as our basic response to God's love. Of course, our response tends to be in the form of "lists" of what needs fixing in our lives or the lives of people we care about. Imagine how our family and friends would respond if, every time we spoke with them, we talked only about what we needed them to do for us. Does that sound like the way to sustain a loving relationship with them?

How much more effective do we think this approach is with God? Since

<sup>1</sup> Carlo Carretto, *The God Who Comes in A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants* (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1983), p. 380.

at least fifty percent of communication is listening and watching for non-verbal clues, we have to wonder how well we are listening to God and whether we are noticing the signs that God puts in our lives to remind us of God's presence and to invite us to respond in prayer.

Again, the greatest risk of not praying faithfully is that we will grow so distant from God that we will forget about God. Without prayer our faith begins to be as unbalanced as my body is with Parkinson's disease when

I don't exercise. With regular prayer we can maintain a more "balanced" perspective on God and God's love for us. We can also help the Church, not only locally but also worldwide, to connect with all of its parts. We need to stop overlooking the risk of not praying with the church, for the church and in the Church. It is time to pray together and regularly to be open to God's love for us and for all of God's people whether in or out of the Church.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

## Message from Missions Commission

### THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN Mid-2014

Writing about the struggle between Israel and Palestine in 2014 is about as difficult as writing about any other topic in which one is not either a scholar or at least well-informed. It is easy to respond with emotion and condemn one or both sides. Clearly, as of this writing (8/2/14) Palestine and its people are suffering enormous losses in the battle between Hamas and Israel. At least that is the impression we have from watching FRANCE 24 (a news network on over-the-air TV channel 60.2).

Reaching out on behalf of the people who are suffering in this conflict is something that many of us would like to do. However, the issues are complex. Just reading the resolution passed at our 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land," an eleven page document, gives one that impression. Yet, that is only one issue. According to the site [https://www.umhltf.org/Current\\_Issues.html](https://www.umhltf.org/Current_Issues.html) there is a host of issues regarding what has gone on in that area. It is worth accessing this site, but download any material there with caution. Our "McAfee Total Protection" program warned us of the possibility of malware accompanying files downloaded from this site.

Besides political advocacy, making our voices heard in press and electronic media and exploring divestment and other sanctions we can consider

purchasing products that are marketed by Palestinian sources. One web site, [www.canaanfairtrade.com](http://www.canaanfairtrade.com) proclaims, "We Create Opportunities For Farmers and Communities."

One place to begin is with the statement issued by Church World Service on July 23 of this year: "As a faith-based agency working around the world to eliminate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice, Church World Service expresses profound sorrow at the military operations taking place in the Israel-Palestine conflict." The rest of the statement goes on to urge a negotiated agreement to the end of the violence that will also contribute to "a two-state solution in which a viable Palestinian state and a secure Israel live side-by-side having Jerusalem as their shared capital." (<http://www.cwsglobal.org/newsroom/news-releases/statement-on-israel-palestine-conflict.html>)

I suspect that the importance of prayer and respect for the faith traditions of all those involved is easily overlooked in the posturing and reporting of such a conflict. While it may not be clear how to support the people of Palestine and Israel in reaching a peace agreement, we can at least pray for them as they live with grief, fear, anger and all the bitter fruits of violence.

Rev. Larry and Jane LaPierre for The Missions Commission ❖

## THE 4TH & 5TH GRADE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

### "Kickoff Event"

Sunday, September 7, 2014  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

at the POOL of the Henderson Family!

1155 Malibu Drive  
San Jose, CA 95129

For more information, please contact co-leaders  
Amy Peterson 408-712-7986  
or Patty Henderson 408-355-4189

## Monte Toyon Kids Church

by Heather Henderson

I had a great time at Toyon Kids camp. Everyone was so nice and fun. The group from our church was Erin, Natalie, Aidan, Dylan, Zoa and Grace. Natalie was not in my cabin, but Erin visited a lot! One of my favorite things to do at camp was the flying Squirrel. I also liked the Fairy circle. It has a lot of stumps that are great to play in. Some are tall and some are short. My small group went in the Fairy circle for lessons about the bible. I liked my small group. They were very friendly. I made great friends at camp. I can't wait to go back next year.



## FAMILY MINISTRY

**Thanks to all Sunday Summer School Volunteers:** This has been a fantastic summer. Dedicated volunteers and diligent parents helped make it happen. Our overall summer attendance has remained steady at around 20 or greater... what an accomplishment. Once again, a big shout of thanks!

**Final Summer Sunday/Sundae Celebration 8/31/14:** The children have maintained their religious education momentum throughout the summer, all while being patient with all ages in the same room/group. This should be celebrated!! It's time to say farewell to summer with a Final Summer Sunday Fun Day. What does this mean: Super playful fun during Sunday School on August 31st (Labor Day weekend Sunday), and before we once again get serious with Sunday School on 9/7/14. What is the plural homonym of Sunday? Well, it is Sundaes... Find them on the playground at the end of Sunday School. See you there!

**"Regular" Sunday School begins 9/7/14:** Registration forms will be sent home on Sunday, September 7. Please return these forms on Sunday, September 14.

**Preschool Sunday School:** It's not just "Nursery to Kindergarten" any longer. 3-year-old and potty trained to 5-year-old Pre-K children have "their own place" in Room 6 beginning 9/7/14 for a Preschool Sunday School Class. Nursery will be designated for 3s "not potty-trained" and younger beginning 9/7/14.

**Church Homecoming 9/7/14:** Regular Sunday School year programming begins on this date. If you are unfamiliar with this or any other "church year" programming, stick around after worship for coffee hour and learn more. A Mission Group Luncheon, along with overall church program information and representation follows worship on this designated Sunday. All ages are welcome. Attend, gain information, sign up and get involved!

**SAVE THE DATES:** 10/26/14: 5-7 p.m. is Autumn Festival and 12/7/14: 2-5 p.m. is Merry Mayhem. Further information will follow.

Julie Lattin, Family Ministry Coordinator ❖





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Mailing Date: August 20, 2014

Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

**Sept. 3, 2014**

**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.

from  
the **Heart**



Dear Campbell Church Family,  
Thank you for your cards, calls, visits, flowers and especially your prayers.

Pastor Karen, Claudia and Ellen helped us through some difficult times. We are thankful.

Ford is home now and we are praying for a speedy recovery.

Blessings to all,

Margie and Ford Cowell



Eugene Hill presents Pastor Kathi with a new t-shirt