



Epiphany Sunday

January 3, 2016
10 am

On Sunday, January 3, the African Fellowship again blesses Campbell United Methodist Church by leading worship and hosting lunch for everyone. This is a joyful, exuberant celebration of our life as a multi-cultural community at Campbell UMC. Our new District Superintendent, Staci Current, will preach. Wear African dress and bring your whole heart!

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Christmas Eve Services Thursday, December 24

5:00 pm Children's Pageant

6:00 pm Christmas Dinner

9:00 pm Candlelight
Christmas Eve Service

Watch Night Service Thursday, December 31

Join members of the African Fellowship as they lead a traditional African worship service to usher in the new year. **10 pm in the Chapel**

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 pm 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, Kathi McShane
PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY,
Daniel Gbundema
CHOIR DIRECTOR, Jim Groff
ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MINISTRIES, Mary Ann Gee

**ADMINISTRATOR OF CHURCH
BUSINESS**
Barbara Wade

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES
Kallie Stroh

YOUTH COORDINATOR
Melinda Knepp

CAREGIVING COORDINATORS
Claudia Slayman, Ellen Droke
CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada

Church Office: 408 378-3472
Web Site: www.campbellunited.org



Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School: 8:50 am
Children's Sunday School: 10:15 am
African Ministry: 11:30 am
Quiet Communion: 6:00 pm Tuesday

Bright Days Preschool
Mary Smith, Director: 408-378-8422
www.brightdayspreschool.com



Kathi's Pastoral Reflections

A new year begins.

Every year that passes inevitably brings change. Often the changes that are most unwelcome as they approach turn out to bring blessings that we could never have imagined in advance.

A few months ago, our *Connections* Editor, Heather Reynolds, and I began a conversation about this newsletter that has been keeping members and friends of Campbell UMC informed about the church's activities for a long time. Heather has been our volunteer Editor for several years, and she has done a remarkable job of gathering news and stories, often writing them herself, designing and laying out the publication, keeping up with adjustments to the church logo and voices of new pastors, getting the letter ready for printing -- once a month more recently, not too long ago twice a month. Heather's graphic design background has served the church well; we have one of the better-looking church newsletters around!

As you can imagine, this is a huge amount of work each month. Heather is ready to retire from this role, so that she can engage more actively in some of the other artistic work she loves, including her work with the Elmwood Jail Ministry. I honor and applaud Heather's attentiveness to God's call in her life, and we let her go from this role with enormous gratitude and appreciation.

This change, like all changes, presents us with an opportunity. We could seek a new newsletter Editor (which would most likely have to become a paid position), or we could look again at how we communicate most effectively with the whole mix of people who are interested in what we are doing here at Campbell UMC. We've begun this conversation, and here is what we see:

- We have a beautiful, newly re-designed website, that has the capacity to be the church's communications hub, using photographs and video, telling stories, keeping us informed. There's a "Get Inspired" page that offers book recommendations and other resources. Larry LaPier's regular newsletter column will become a blog that appears regularly on the site.
- We send out, by email, a Midweek Message every week, that includes both a bit of inspiration and announcements about upcoming activities.
- We have in each week's worship bulletin a Blue Addendum that includes all of the church's current activities and information about how to participate.
- We currently send out weekly, by regular mail, copies of the sermon to members and friends who cannot be with us for worship for one reason or another.

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Kathi's Pastoral Reflections

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We've begun to think that if we include the Blue Addendum with the sermon mailing, and we make sure that everyone who currently receives the newsletter by mail has an opportunity to request this weekly mailing, we may be able to ensure that everyone gets the communication they need.

We'd like to try this. Consider it an experiment. Beginning next month, as we bless Heather and send her off to her next projects, we will discontinue this newsletter. If, after we've given this new system a chance to get comfortable, we decide together that our communication is suffering, we can always change things again.

Here's what you need to do:

- If you would like to receive a weekly mailing that includes the sermon and the Blue Addendum, send a note to the church by mail (1675 Winchester Blvd.), by email (info@campbellunited.org), or call the church office and speak to Barbara Wade (408-378-3472).
- Start checking the website (www.campbellunited.org) frequently!
- If you have something you would like to tell the rest of the congregation about -- an activity coming up or a story of something that has just passed -- send some words and a photo or two to web@campbellunited.org.

Thanks for your flexibility and your openness to doing things in a new way. Thanks for being part of a community that is stretching into new ways of being. Thanks for anticipating with me all that God will do among us in the year ahead.

With love and blessings, Kathi ❖

On The Campus

Organist/Pianist Search

Our dear Mary Ann Gee has decided, for health reasons, to step down from her role as the church's Organist -- a position she has held for 25 years. Mary Ann will continue to serve as Coordinator of Music Ministries, and to serve the church as she has so ably, planning music for worship and special occasions, and coordinating all of Campbell UMC's musical groups.

A committee has begun the process of searching for a new Organist/Pianist, with the following job posting:

Campbell United Methodist Church seeks an Organist/Pianist. Regular instruments are a three-manual Schantz pipe organ and a 9'2" Knabe grand piano. Our Sunday morning worship services (10:00 am, 250-275 average attendance) employ a wide variety of musical styles—classical, contemporary, gospel, world. The Organist/Accompanist must be comfortable on both piano and organ, and adept with the full array of these styles.

Excellent keyboard and musical skills (piano and organ) required. Some synthesizer and/or midi system experience preferred.

This is a one-quarter time position (10-15 hours/week). Compensation commensurate with experience, and consistent with AGO guidelines.

We are a multi-cultural congregation that is energized and inspired by excellent music. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please send resume and a cover letter to Search@campbellunited.org.

Campbell United Methodist Church
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Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 378-3472

On the web: www.campbellunited.org

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/campbellunited.org>

Instagram: @hopespiritservice
- <http://instagram.com/hopespiritservice>

Twitter: @hopespiritserv - <http://twitter.com/hopespiritserv> ❖

Winter Luncheon

Everyone is welcome to the Thursday Winter Soup Luncheons in the Fireside Room at noon on the following dates: December 17, January 21, February 18 and March 17. Please RSVP to Jane LaPierre 408 558-4831, or cirrider@att.net or at church on Sundays. If you need transportation or have dietary restrictions, please let me know. Every age group is welcome. Thanks, Jane LaPierre ❖

Homeless Ongoing Collection

Blankets and toiletries are needed for people who are homeless in Campbell. A box is set up in the entryway to Fellowship Hall where you may drop off items. Thank you for your support. Jane LaPierre ❖

New in 2016 - Worship at Work in the World!

Four times each year, there is a fifth Sunday of the month. In 2016, we will try something new: On each 5th Sunday, worship will be brief (~20 minutes), joyfully led by our own Gospel Choir, under the direction of James Creer. At the end of that worship, the entire congregation will be sent out to be in service for the remainder of the morning. Over the year, we'll have a number of opportunities for service, on and off campus, for every age and ability.

We'll launch this effort on the first

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On The Campus

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5th Sunday of the year, January 31, with a Stop Hunger Now event in Fellowship Hall. Between 10:30 am and noon, we will together pack 20,000 meals to send out to hungry people in other parts of the world. In the afternoon, we'll open up this volunteer opportunity to other members of the community. Generous contributions from congregation members make this event possible. The Church in Action Committee (formerly Missions Commission and Church & Society) sponsors and coordinates. ❖

January Worship

Beginning January 10 – a new sermon series for the beginning of an election year:

The Spirit of Democracy – the values that underlie our actions as citizens and as people of faith. ❖

A Preliminary Report from the Stewardship Campaign

Thank you, thank you, to all of you who made pledges of financial giving for 2016. Not all pledges are in, but it appears that total pledges to the church's regular operating budget will be 6-10% over 2015 levels. This, together with other anticipated income, will allow the church to meet all of its needs in the coming year, including a significant increase in our tithe to ministries we share with the entire California Nevada Conference (10% of our income).

In addition, you have pledged and/or given \$20,000 to the Innovation Fund! This will allow us to expand our ministries in new and creative ways.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible, so that our information is accurate as we build the 2016 budget. If you need a pledge card, just call the church office. ❖

Merry Mayhem



New Church Leaders begin January 1, 2016

At the annual Church Conference on November 18, a new slate of lay leaders and committee members was elected. Committee Chairs for the year include:

Church Council:	Bruce Hallinan
Lay Leaders:	Sally Wenzel, Renee Eilerts
African Fellowship:	Tamba Tugbawa
Board of Trustees:	Chair to be elected in January
Staff Parish Relations Committee:	Sally Wenzel
Finance Committee:	Tim McGuire
Stewardship Committee:	Jack Coward, Judy Chirco
Church In Action:	Brook Hendershot, Greg Knepp, Jennifer Willhoite
Children's Council:	Holly Aspiras
Memorials Committee:	Ina Tanner
Community Fund:	Daniel Hinojosa
Communications Team:	Roxanne Kohlin and Mark Shepherd
Bright Days Board:	Laura Hallinan
Endowment Committee:	George W. Cleveland
Congregational Care:	Ellen Droke and Claudia Slayman
Youth Coordinator:	Melinda Knepp



Rosemary School Garden

On Saturday, December 5, Campbell UMC's young adults, led by Emerging Leader Joe Liverseed, hosted a Garden Launch Party for students and families at Rosemary School. *The first garden work day will be Saturday, January 9.*



The emerging school garden at Rosemary Elementary School is one way in which Campbell United Methodist reimagines ways in which it engages young adult and expands the typical mold of ministry. Forming a group of service-minded young adults (ages 18-35) from within and beyond the church community, the garden partnership with Rosemary is designed to appeal to a generation of young people interested in issues of ecological sustainability, food systems and urban farming, and the intersection between spirituality and the environment. It is wide open for all walks of life, spiritual beliefs, and levels of gardening experience. Currently, there are around four core members of the garden ministry and we are hoping to grow.

Rosemary itself is a incredibly diverse school facing some tough problems. First and foremost is the high level of poverty and economic adversity facing many of its families; a telling statistic is that close to 90% of the 515 students qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program because the family lives at or below the poverty line. Beyond the economic hardships are the social and cultural barriers present within the school community. For example, nearly 75% of the students speak or are learning to speak English as a second language. A large majority of the students are Hispanic but there are also big portions of Vietnamese and other Asian ethnicities as well.

The neighborhood itself is also pretty rough. The school is adjacent to a community long known for both high levels of crime and poverty. Gangs and violence just blocks away from the school remain a problem. Many students at the school come from these families that either participate or have been victims of gang violence.



For all of these reasons, establishing a vibrant and bountiful school garden at Rosemary School is a noble and worthwhile cause. The aim is to address issues of food insecurity and poor nutrition in an area where junk food and fast food meals are very common. Moreover, providing free vegetables and produce to the families should also help alleviate, if only in a very small way, the economic hardships facing these families. Free, healthy food is a huge benefit of this garden. Finally, the garden could become a place of community and resilience for these families. If the garden works, it will truly become a school garden that benefits all those part of the Rosemary family.

I view my job as an intern at Campbell UMC to be a servant-leader in order to bring us one step closer to that reality.

Joe Liverseed, Emerging Leader ❖



We did a planting activity to let everyone get their hands dirty. We also wanted to learn more about what families hope to see the garden become and what they want to grow. There was a lot of sharing through food, conversation and coloring activities where the children drew what they hope the garden will look like someday. Everyone is looking forward to working together to make the garden a beautiful and productive place for the Rosemary community.

Sara Hire ❖



Methodist Connection

Shoes for Africa



The people of Campbell Methodist Church have bought and collected 1,200 pair of new and gently used children's shoes. These shoes are for children in United Methodist schools in Kayima and Mongeri Provinces in Sierra Leone.

On Sunday afternoon, November 15, Pastor Daniel, Pastor Kathi, and Elaine and Gene Hill loaded over 1,020 pair of new and used shoes into Elaine's van, and 180 pair of new shoes into Gene's truck. The shoes had been in

Pastor Kathi's storage unit and the Hill's dining room.

The truck and van were packed and the workers took a break.



On Monday, November 16, Pastor Daniel and the Hills traveled to a warehouse in San Francisco where they unloaded 1,200 pair of shoes into the staging area.

Everything was now ready to be loaded into an ocean-going cargo container. The loading was scheduled for Friday, November 20. The sea voyage to Sierra Leone will take two to three months.

Gene Hill ♦



Christmas Eve Pageant

This Christmas Eve, children experience the wonder and joy of the story of Christ's birth in a Christmas pageant. Don't miss the opportunity to share in this wonder too at 5 pm on Thursday, December 24, in the Sanctuary.



Circuit Writer Rev. Larry LaPierre

Gratitude and our Spiritual Life

Perhaps, like me, you find it easier to be grateful to God when everything is going well. What happens, however, when life takes a turn for the worse? Does it occur to us to give thanks to God at those times? What do we say to God when we have just lost our job, a child has developed cancer, our spouse has decided to leave us or we cannot escape memories that threaten to overwhelm us?

More specifically, how do we give thanks in the midst of our suffering? St. Paul, in his first letter to the church at Thessalonica, ended the letter with a list of ways to live as Christians. In the middle of this list Paul wrote, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)¹

Paul seems to be asking a lot of us. It may seem impossible to give thanks in all circumstances. Why would we ever do that? Frankly, there are a lot of situations in which I have not felt particularly thankful! Times when I feel anxious, guilty, angry, depressed or lonely are not times when I always feel like giving thanks.

Yet, there is reason to give thanks in all situations. It's based on my belief that God loves each of us. Like most people I have had times when it seemed like I was alone with my suffering. I believe, however, that even in my darkest times, God has known what I was feeling and loved me even when I could not or would

not acknowledge that God was the only reliable light in my darkness. What helped me was to remember that God was with and even within me and would not abandon me. I had learned this as a child, and I clung to this one belief about God no matter what was happening to me, around me or within me.

Thomas Merton, the 20th century monk, mystic and writer, wrote this: "Our knowledge of God is perfected by gratitude: we are thankful and rejoice in the experience of the truth that (God) is love." He continues with this claim: "We do not know Him (Jesus) unless we are grateful, and praise the Father with him."²

Our spiritual life is almost certainly not free of suffering. We are, however, able to give thanks in all situations because God always loves us. When nothing else seems to be positive, we can give thanks that God's love is real, unconditional, unending and available at every point on our spiritual journey. We need, however, to have ways to remind each other that God loves us. That is one of many reasons that I come to worship with the church, pray and study Scripture—to have people to remind me.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

² Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* in Bob Benson & Michael W. Benson, *Disciplines for the Inner Life* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985), p. 335.

¹ NRSV Bible, copyright 1989, Div. of Christian Ed. of the Nat. Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Advent Gospel Choir



CARTOON CORNER



Mailing Date: [December 16, 2015](#)

Return Service Requested

Become...

who God created you to be - fully human, fully alive.

Be found...

in a community where our differences are treasured as glimpses of beauty in the eyes of a creative God.

Be unafraid...

to cross boundaries for the sake of love and justice.

From The Heart

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the support, kind words and dedication I have received these past five years of creating our newsletter. Even as I anticipate the ways I will continue to use my creativity, I shall miss putting together this paper.

I especially thank our regular contributors, the Reverend Larry LaPierre, Susan Sargent, Gene and Elaine Hill and Ellen Droke who have faithfully enriched our reading. I cannot leave out Mary Ann Gee who regularly sends photos to share.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year for 2016.

Heather Reynolds