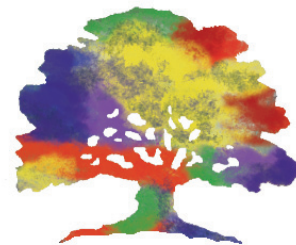


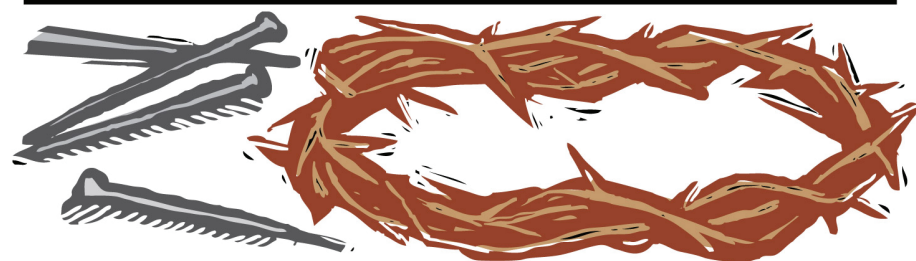
Campbell



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL, 2015



HOLY WEEK

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Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary – *When everything else is washed away.*

Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall – *Re-live Jesus' last supper with the people who surrounded him on the last night of his life.*

Good Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary – *We stand with those who watched Jesus' crucifixion, not sure yet whether this death meant the end of hope or the beginning of new meaning.*

Easter Sunday, April 5, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary – *We have long known the end of this story, but let it surprise you again. We wake up to the reality that life is bigger and more glorious than we had imagined.*

Campbell Connections

A monthly publication of
Campbell United Methodist Church
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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**



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CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada

Church Office: 408 378-3472
Web Site: 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



Kathi's Pastoral Reflections

A recent *New York Times* article noted that in the midst of declining church attendance in the U.S. and elsewhere, there is a worldwide boom happening in “spiritual travel.” One out of every three tourists is a pilgrim, someone who goes on a journey—not just metaphorically, but actually—to get closer to the source of their faith. The article quoted one young traveler who had hiked the “Jesus Trail,” a four-day, 40-mile journey from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. “Here’s what I learned,” he said: “You’re either walking in the direction of God or you’re walking away.”

(*New York Times*, Sunday December 21, 2014, “The New Allure of Sacred Pilgrimages,” p. SR7)

Pilgrimage offers an opportunity to remove yourself from the day-to-day requirements of your own life and immerse yourself in a story, a narrative that has been transformative before and promises to be so again. Our Holy Week services this year are designed to offer you that kind of pilgrimage, without leaving home at all.

Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m. – Re-live Jesus’ last supper with the people who surrounded him on the last night of his life.

Good Friday at 7 p.m. – We stand with those who watched Jesus’ crucifixion, not sure yet whether this death meant the end of hope or the beginning of new meaning.

Easter Sunday at 10 a.m. – We have long known the end of this story, but let it surprise you again. We wake up to the reality that life is bigger and more glorious than we had imagined.

I hope you will think of these services as a three-part sacred experience. Make the commitment now to attend all three, so that you might really “get” the message of Easter in a different way this year.

To quote the *Times* article again,

“A pilgrimage...is a gesture of action. In a world in which more and more things are artificial and ephemeral, a sacred journey gives the pilgrim the chance to experience something both physical and real. It provides seekers with an opportunity to confront their doubts and decide for themselves what they really believe. As appealing as that may be, there’s only one way to achieve it. Get up off your sofa and go.”

Yes. Let’s go. Together.

Kathi ❖



Gathering of Men (GOM)

The Gathering of Men (15 strong) met February 7th to enjoy each other's company; share breakfast of fruit, bagels, donuts, juice and coffee; and discuss in small groups, "Who do we talk to about the things we don't talk about generally? A close friend, a spouse, a pastor, the dog, ourself?"

Some pretty creative ideas were shared in the meeting of the whole group after the small group discussion. The GOM is always an opportunity to get to know some of our fellow men in the Church in more depth and be supportive in our joys and sorrows. We keep each other's confidences and care for each other through thick and thin. All men are invited to try the group out. Hope to see some new faces at future first Saturday meetings.

Dave Sargent ✦

CRAB FEST 2015



A great time was had by all who attended our Fat Saturday Crab Fest on February 21st. We enjoyed good food (thanks, Juvenal Castro), family and friends, and an amazing performance by the San Jose Jazz High School All-Star Band. Susan Giles and her chocolate fountain were a big hit again this year.

Our auction was full of a variety of prizes and the bidding was active. Some items even went for more than their value - Sharks and Stanford Baseball tickets. Did you get to see the adorable cheese boards that Andrew Reynolds made from our Silver Maple Tree? Thanks to Jack Norris for doing another great job as the master of ceremonies and auctioneer.

So many church members stepped up to assist in making this event the

best it could be and I want to thank everyone for their part, however big or small. Many hands make light of work.

We are still tabulating and collecting some monies but it looks like we will earn around \$4000 this year. Definitely less than the last two years. With crab prices up and tickets sales down - we did not raise our ticket price this year like many other feeds did - our profit was less than we had hoped.

Would you like to help plan a fundraiser to make up the difference? Contact Janine Payton ✦



Stop Hunger Now

Coming to Campbell UMC

On Saturday, May 9th, CUMC will sponsor a

Campbell community service day providing volunteer opportunities for adults and children of all ages in conjunction with Stop Hunger Now. We plan to pack 40,000 meals for hungry people across the globe.

Thanks to the generous commitment of the Campbell community fund, as well as the donations of many of you, we expect to raise the \$11,600 necessary to make this project go forward. To date, we have commitments for \$9,475.

On Sunday, March 15th, Church & Society, served samples of the Stop Hunger Now meals and sought donations.

The May 9th event, which will run from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., is designed to provide a service opportunity and also to acquaint the community with various volunteer organizations that need volunteers. Along with Stop Hunger Now, we have invited numerous community

volunteer groups to attend a service fair, which will offer a wide variety of service options for all ages. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Those of you who have been to Stop Hunger Now events in the past know that they provide great personal satisfaction as well as being high-energy and fun events.

Franklin Bondonno, Church & Society ✦

Book Club Travels

Book Club will be meeting on Monday, March 23rd, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room to discuss the book, *Walls: Travels Along the Barricades*, by Marcello di Cintio. In this ambitious first person narrative, Marcello Di Cintio travels to the world's most disputed edges to meet the people who live alongside the razor wire, concrete, and steel and how the structure of the walls has influenced their lives. This should be an interesting read.

For those of you who might like to join us in April, we will be reading *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed. This is a very timely read for us as Melinda Knepp will be hiking the Pacific Crest Trail beginning in April and most likely won't complete it until about September. We will be feeling her tired feet and sharing her joys as she takes on this 2,650 mile hike from the southern most border of California to the northern most border of Washington

Come join us as we take on these two very exciting books.

Lou Woodburycattcott ✦

50+ to Visit Los Altos History Museum

On Friday, April 10th, the 50+ group will explore the special exhibit *Silicon Valley: The Lure & the Legends*, which is now on view at the Los Altos History Museum on the first floor



continued from p.3

gallery. The second floor includes a permanent exhibit on local history, beginning with the Ohlone people, and a wonderful model railroad portraying Los Altos as it looked in 1932. Adjacent to the museum is the J. Gilbert Smith History House, a large farmhouse built in 1905, which can be visited on docent led tours.

Optional lunch out will be at "Sweet Tomatoes" in Mountain View. See the bulletin addendum for details. Sign ups will be held on Sundays, March 29th and April 5th. For more information contact Dave or Susan Sargent, 378-1232. ❖

Shoes for Sierra Leone



We did it! We've collected over 1,000 pairs of shoes to ship to schools in Sierra Leone later this year. This effort, led by Church & Society, is one small way of thanking our African Fellowship for all the ways they bless all of us at Campbell United Methodist Church. ❖

CARTOON CORNER



In the COMMUNITY



Community Flea Market

SATURDAY, February 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Alum Rock United Methodist Church, 30 Kirk Avenue

Multiple sellers and lots of great stuff. Come and enjoy the morning searching for treasures. There will be a bouncy house & fun for the kids too!

VENDOR SPACE IS AVAILABLE!

Sell your own crafts, handiwork, or flea market type items. Contact Myra at Epifany@AlumRockUMC.org to make your reservation. Donations appreciated. ❖

InnVision Dinner

CHURCH AND SOCIETY is thanking all of you who have helped with the InnVision Dinners at Montgomery Street Inn this past year. This only happens when all of us work together -- food donors, cooks, transporters, and servers. The men are so happy when our group serves and express their gratefulness for our happy welcoming faces. One night one of the "servers" played the piano during dinner. How they enjoyed that special treat! Our next dinner is Friday, April 24th. Come; join in this very special Campbell United Methodist Church service.

Lea Adams, Church & Society ❖

CUMC SNAPSHOTS An Historical Skip Around Campus



Campbell United Methodist Church has observed Lent for the 125 years of our life as a congregation.

At some point in our history, we began to celebrate Easter Sunday by providing flowering plants for the altar that were given in memory of our loved ones or in honor of those still with us. Originally, the flowers were traditional white Easter lilies. More recently, a colorful assortment of blooming spring flowers have graced the Sanctuary.

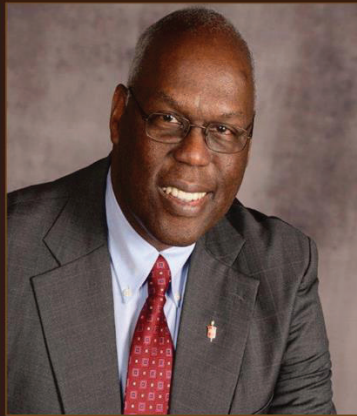
After Easter, the potted plants are taken to shut-ins and others by members of the congregation. A spring bouquet of potted plants

will adorn our worship on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖

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

Celebrating Fruitfulness and Faithfulness with Bishop Brown



- ✦ A time to be inspired by Bishop Warner Brown, Jr., Resident Bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, and current President of the Council of Bishops
- ✦ A town hall style Q&A time led by the Bishop-Including the Bishop preparing to share the places of fruitfulness and faithfulness that he is most excited about in the Annual Conference and throughout the world.
- ✦ Learn more about training and consultation resources available through our Conference.
- ✦ Includes time for refreshments and connecting with other United Methodists.
- ✦ To register: <https://calnev-reg.brapp.com/CelebratingwithBishopBrown>

Hosted by: San Ramon Valley UMC
 Date: Saturday, March 28th
 Time: 9:30AM until noon
 Place: San Ramon Valley UMC, Wesley Ctr
 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507

Hosted by: Korean UMC of Santa Clara Valley
 Date: Sunday, March 29th
 Time: 2:00PM until 4:00PM
 Place: Korean UMC of Santa Clara Valley
 1001 Ginger Lane, San Jose, CA 95128

United Methodist Women

MARY'S STORY TOLD ANEW



The El Camino Real District United Methodist Women held a one-day retreat at Campbell UMC on Saturday, February 28th. Susan Kopp, who is currently a lay pastor, led 60 participants as we listened, sang, prayed, and interacted with one another. Through scripture, hymns, and her own message, Susan enriched our understanding of Mary. We learned some of Susan's story and pondered our own faith journeys and practice. Susan reminded us that God loves her, and the rest of us, unconditionally.

The meetings and special events presented by Campbell United Methodist Women are open to all. Our next General Meeting and program will be on Thursday, May 7th beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Susan Sargent ✦

Circuit Writer



**Sell Everything
We Have?**

Rev. Larry LaPierre

Sell everything we have? Really? Whose idea of stewardship is this? After all, we have to help take care of unexpected needs as well as our regular day-to-day living expenses. So, who is spreading this kind of message? Actually, it's no secret. It was Jesus. In three of the Gospels he is reported to have said, "Sell everything you have and give to the poor." (Luke 18:22, Matt. 19:21, Mark 10:21) The man to whom this spiritual direction was offered was a rich man. So, he had a lot to sell and give away. Not unexpectedly, the rich man was not happy with what Jesus said to him. In fact, "he became very sad."

Well, who wouldn't be sad? Actually, when I went to seminary I don't think I ever heard anyone at the seminary complain about what any of us had left behind. We had all left jobs, homes and futures that we thought were at least somewhat under our control. We also were pretty confident that God had called us into pastoral ministry, however, and we trusted God to guide us.

Of course, those who aren't called to seminary can assure each other that Jesus wouldn't ask us to do something that doesn't make sense—like selling everything we have. Yet Christians have to be ready to surrender everything to God so that we are free to serve God. Quite a number of people besides clergy have discovered this.

Saint Francis of Assisi did. He gave away absolutely everything he had, even the clothing that he was wearing, when he decided to live a life of utter poverty and dedication to following wherever God led. There have been many other followers of Jesus who lived lives of intentional poverty as they shared all that they had. Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker movement in New York City

dedicated herself to ministering to the homeless as did her colleague Peter Maurin.

For the many of the rich it seems unthinkable. For the utterly destitute it is impossible. What about the rest of us who have more than we need right now? Why give away any more than we already do? There were and still are two reasons to follow Jesus' spiritual direction. He said to the rich man, "You will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." The world often considers heaven as unreal ("pie in the sky by and by"). As for following Jesus, that works for those of us who already trust Jesus as the Son of God.

Living as simply as possible by giving away as much as possible frees us from some of the distractions to living in God's kingdom now. Of course, the choice is ours, but let's be clear. Many of us do have a choice about "living simply so that others may simply live" (attributed to the Mennonites). One of my students, a retired woman who was also an Episcopal deacon, an unpaid position, was the director of a full-time soup kitchen in Maine. That was her ministry. In doing what she did she was able to focus more on serving God rather than always wondering if she had "enough." As we used to say in Maine, "She made do (with what she had)!"

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

FOCUS on African Fellowship



Pastor Daniel extends a warm welcome to everyone to attend the African Fellowship Services on the third Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m.

Please join in the next celebration on April 19, 2015 in the Chapel.

In Memory of Lorene Van Sickle

In August 2008, Campbell United Methodist Church (CUMC) received an unusual gift from a member of the Campbell community who had observed the church's outreach to the community for many years.

Lorene Van Sickle was the principal of her family's foundation that had been set up to benefit the entire community of Campbell. As Mrs. Van Sickle assessed her own energy and capacity for this work, she saw that CUMC had a number of programs whose goal was to accomplish a similar purpose. She had never been a member of this congregation; but she saw here, people and purpose she admired.

And so Mrs. Van Sickle entrusted to the church the money that her family had set aside in its foundation—approximately \$600,000. The money was invested alongside the church's endowment fund, although it has always been accounted for separately.

The "Van Sickle Fund," also known as the "Community Fund" is administered by members of CUMC. Each year it makes grants from income earned through the fund's investments. Grants from this fund have assisted a number of the church's ministries—Stop Hunger Now and the Elmwood Jail Art & Spirit Ministry, for example. The fund has also benefited programs at Del Mar High School, Heart of the Valley, the Campbell Veteran's Memorial, Historical Museum, Community Center and Rosemary School.

And at the same time, the fund has grown. Its assets are now in excess of \$700,000. They continue to provide CUMC with valuable resources for ministry to the community.

Lorene Van Sickle passed away in January. We are grateful for her vision, her generosity, and her trust in the compassion and capability of this congregation. We will continue the tradition of her family's generosity in her memory. ❖



Family Ministries at CUMC

A search committee has been formed, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee has launched a search for a new Director of Children's and Family Ministries. The job posting has gone out to a number of local colleges, as well as to the Conference office, local churches and Pacific School of Religion. We are hoping to have a new director in place within the next sixty days.

The job posting and description includes this language:

Our vision for the next chapter of the church's ministries with children and families includes these values and goals:

Values:

- A progressive Christian theology, with an explicit focus on the Christian faith and tradition, and appreciation for other religious traditions;
- The practices of the spiritual life, including prayer, immersion in the stories of the Judeo-Christian tradition, sacraments, community;
- An active faith that includes a commitment to social justice and inclusion of all persons in the community of God's love, including particularly persons of differing cultures, races, abilities, and sexual orientations;
- The centrality of serving others as a practice of faith;
- Diversity, and the opportunity to learn and grow through relationships with persons of different cultures and backgrounds.

Goals:

- A deeper engagement with community outside the congregation, including the on-site preschool families, neighborhood school, and families living in the Campbell community;
- More regular inter-generational activities and interaction;
- To build educational resources for and community among parents and families of children and youth;
- A more cohesive community among the wide diversity of racial and ethnic groups within the congregation;
- New programs and curriculum that provide relevant and attractive invitations to families not currently engaged in church.

We're excited about this next chapter of the church's commitment to serving children, youth and their families. If you have questions or comments, you can talk with any of the search committee members: Pastor Kathi, Sally Wenzel, Sandy Snider, Susan Giles, Jenni Martin ✦



Celebrate the Children's Musical
April 26, 2015 at 10 a.m.

Giddyup, Giddalong Gideon

In the action packed story of *Giddyup, Giddalong Gideon*, Israel is in a real mess! The Israelites had become homeless, hiding in caves and scavenging for food wherever they could find it. God decides to use a man named Gideon to rescue the Israelites, but Gideon is very afraid because of the enormity of the task. God understands Gideon's fears, but still tells him to giddyup, giddalong, and get it done!!

Please join the Joyful Notes Choir on Sunday, April 26th, at both the 10:00 service and at 2:00 that afternoon, as they bring this story of Gideon to life in the musical, *Giddyup, Giddalong Gideon* by Dave Noel and Steve Schmidt.

Daelene Groff, Director ✦

HAVE YOU HEARD OF VIA SERVICES?

Rowena Hinojosa

Samuel Hinojosa has been a client of Via Services (www.viaservices.org) since about 2004. He goes to their camp on some weekends during the fall, winter, and spring. He also attends weeklong camps there during the summer.

Since Samuel landed his part-time job with the Centerplate team at Levi's stadium last summer, the folks from Via have reached out to him to tie into his job connection with the San Francisco 49ers.



The first time last summer, Via invited Samuel to a camp that was running over a weekend that he was unable to attend - since he had to work his first night at Levi's stadium - where Steve Young and two other former 49er players would be visiting. Samuel later met Steve Young at Via Camp West where Steve was giving a talk designed to help inspire the campers to work together, cooperate, and to help learn the importance of teamwork.

Steve Young signed Samuel's football that Samuel keeps in his room and they had their picture taken together. Above all, during the talk to all of the campers, Steve recognized Samuel and called him out as an employee who worked at the stadium.

Via Services holds an annual fundraising ball, which was held this year on Friday, February 27. For the ball, the Via team reached out to Samuel to ask him to paint a picture that Samuel

would sign and would also be signed by Steve Young, to be auctioned off to help raise money for Via Services.

Samuel made two paintings, one of a football and the other of the back of Steve Young's jersey, showing the number 8 and Young's name below that. The background was red and the number 8 and the name were in yellow.



Samuel signed the painting and Steve Young signed it at a later date.

The painting was the first item up for auction and the starting bid was \$1,000.00. Prior to the first bid, Samuel was asked to give a short speech to talk a little about how Via Services had helped him, how he met Steve Young, and how he came to make the painting and why.

Once the bidding started, it was quite lively with bids rolling in, beginning in increments of \$500 and then smaller amounts of \$200 and \$100. When the winner of the auction was called, the final bid was \$3,000.00. Money that will go to help Via continue to provide services to Samuel and families like ours. We trust that we will continue to have a long and valued relationship with the Via Services team. ❖



Samuel and Steve Young

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

The youth participating in SSP this summer would like to send out a giant "thank you" for \$960 received at last month's "Super, Super (Bowl) Party." These donations will help to send our ten high school youth and two adults to San Diego where they will be serving with the Episcopal Refugee Network in the City Heights neighborhood. This is the first year that Sierra Service Project has served in San Diego. If you would like to learn more about SSP, you can go to their website at <http://www.sierraserviceproject.org/>. ❖



We are very pleased to announce **Jim Groff** as our **new Chancel Choir Director** in April.

Mary Ann Gee will become **Director of Music Ministries**. You probably know how much Mary Ann already does to coordinate all of the music ministries in the church. This title confirms our honor and appreciation of her gifts and her deep commitment to the worship and musical life of this church.

Campbell United Methodist Church is blessed to have two such talented and giving contributors to our music programs.

2015 Summer Camps

Registration Open! A week at a camp can be a life-changing experience for children and youth. The Summer Camp Programs of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (whew!) are about meeting the hopes and dreams of parents and creating lifelong, life-changing memories for young people in a safe, fun, and caring environment.

Your child will discover an ever-greater love for God in their hearts – while growing in self-confidence, resourcefulness and gratitude as they encounter a spiritual awakening that will unfold over a lifetime.

Monte Toyon Camps:

Toyon Kids – July 6 – 11, for those going into 3rd - 6th grades

Toyon L.I.T. - July 6 – 11, for 14-15 year-olds

Camp Quest – July 12 – 17, for those going into 7th-9th grades

Impact L.I.T. – July 12 – 17, for 16-19 year-olds

Lodestar Camps:

Super Kid Camps – July 19 – 25, for those going into 3rd- 6th grades

Super Camp – July 19 – 25, for those going into 7th-9th grades

Lodestar L.I.T. – July 19 – 25, for 14-15 year-olds

If you register by May 8, CUMC will cover the \$100 deposit.

Please register ONLINE at www.cnumc.org/camping, OR download the registration form from the website and mail your payment to Shari Sandoval at CA-NV Annual Conference, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA, 95798. Make checks payable to CA-NV Annual Conference (add the name of the camp that your child(ren) will be attending on the memo line. Bring a copy of your registration to the church office by May 8 to be reimbursed. For questions, contact Shari Sandoval at (916) 374-1528, at sharis@calnevumc.org.

Hitting the Trail

Melinda Knepp



planning on using four pairs of hiking boots, and I still need to buy one more pair and break it in. Not only did we need to train (walking, hiking, biking, the gym), we also needed to get in some backpacking trips. Last summer we decided to hike the section of the PCT between highways 50 and 80. We didn't make it, but we learned from the experience. Starting at 7500 feet and having to climb 1500 feet on the first day was not going to work. I'm proud of the fact that we called Greg and had him pick us up early. Of course we've had successful trips too. We even saw our first bear in the wild in Yosemite. Now it's thinking about food. Planning three meals plus four snacks a day for four months is not easy. Everything has to be packed before we go, so that it can be shipped to our resupply points. We will also be buying our own supplies along the way, but we need to know ahead of time when and where those will be. Permits have to be obtained.

We will be starting our hike on April 14 from Campo, California and will travel 2, 264 miles to Manning Park, Canada. On paper, we will enter Canada on August 23. To accomplish this we need to average a little over 20 miles per day. This aggressive schedule allows for some planned "zero days" (no hiking) but not for days we can't hike due to weather, blisters, or any other unforeseen problems.

I feel very blessed to be able to embark on this once in a lifetime adventure and I couldn't do it without the great support of my family and friends. I don't know who is going to need more prayers, me on this hike or Greg and Bodie having to figure out what I actually do at home.

If you are interested in our progress you can follow our blog at <http://liznmelsea.blogspot.com>. I'll be carrying a tracker so you can see where we are even if we can't post to the blog. ❖

Many of you have already heard that I will be hiking the Pacific Crest Trail this year. It all started in the fall of 2013 when a friend I met through Boy Scouts called and told me that she wanted to hike the PCT in 2015. She needed someone to go with her. Was I interested? All sorts of thoughts went through my mind. Yes, I've always wanted to do something like this. Wait, I'll be away from my family for at least four months! Can I actually do this?

After lots of thinking, praying and talking to Greg and Bodie I said yes. And so we started planning. With the aid of several web sites, we planned each section of the route from Mexico to Canada, noting resupply points and likely water sources.

We started reading PCT guide books, books by people who have done this hike, and the blogs of the 2014 hikers. New equipment needed to be purchased and broken in. I'm



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Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

April 8, 2015

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.



WE WANT YOUR STORY!

E-mail the Editor at:

hreynolds63@gmail.com

by April 8, 2015

and share your story in next month's newsletter.