

# Campbell



## CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2012

### Sundays at Campbell United Methodist Church FALL 2012

Sunday Mornings at Campbell UMC  
return to "Normal" on September 9th  
after our enjoyable experience with the alternate summer schedule.

#### NORMAL MEANS . . .

**TWO WORSHIP SERVICES** every Sunday at 9:00 am and 10:45 am

**The Chancel Choir Returning to Worship**

**Sunday School for Adults, Youth and Children at 9:00 am**

**Coffee Hour Between Services**

**Offering Hot Coffee and Warm Fellowship**

#### NORMAL ALSO MEANS . . .

**10:45 am**

**Adjusting the beginning of the second service to 10:45 am  
to allow for adequate time for Fellowship between services  
and to relieve the parking space problems  
experienced by those attending the later service**

#### INTIMATE WORSHIP

**Continued use in the later service (during September)  
of a modified version of the summer worship service to enhance  
and diversify our congregation's worship experience**

**A new sermon series offered by Pastor Jim that presents**

**"A GUIDE TO WHAT MATTERS MOST"**

**The Dos and Don'ts of Progressive Christian Believing and Living**

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*Enjoy a Sundae on Sunday morning, September 2nd! The closing event of our summer-long "Growing in Faith and Service" program will be an Ice-Cream Social in Fellowship Hall, following the morning worship service. This will be a time of great fellowship as we enjoy the last weekend of the summer, and gear up for a zest-filled fall. The ice cream will be provided by Bay Area Ice Cream Catering Company, which will offer several flavors of ice cream and all the toppings at stations in the Fellowship Hall. Mark you calendar now!*

## Campbell Connections

A monthly publication of  
Campbell United Methodist Church  
**Editor - Heather Reynolds**  
**Copy Proofing - Dave Foyle**  
**Gail Jacobs**

The Campbell Connections is mailed the 3rd Wednesday\* of each month. Deadline to submit an article is 4 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Submit article to Church Office  
or e-mail the Editor at:  
hreynolds63@gmail.com.

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\*If there are 5 Wednesdays in a month the newsletter will be mailed on the 4th Wednesday & the deadline for articles will be on the 3rd Wednesday.

If you have any questions regarding the mailing, please call the office at 408-378-3472



**CAMPBELL UMC is a RECONCILING CONGREGATION**



### CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR, Jim Mishler**  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY**  
**Daniel Gbundema**  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR, Bill Coye**  
**ORGANIST, Mary Ann Gee**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES**  
**Barbara Wade, Church Business**  
**VOLUNTEER YOUTH COORDINATOR**  
**Melinda Knepp**  
**CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada**

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



**Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.**  
**Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Children's Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.**  
**African Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.**

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

**New Creation UMC Worship: 12:30 p.m.**  
**Quiet Communion: 6:00 p.m. Tuesday**

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



## Pastor's Point of View

Dear Friends,

I was having lunch with several clergy friends when someone asked, "How can we use kindness and love to make a difference in other people's lives?" - yes, Clergy say and do these kind of things. Everyone in the conversation had an idea or two that was excellent advice for Christians to put into daily practice. I wrote them down so I could share them with you. I call them . . .

### 9 Ways to Love Strangers and Other People

You can . . . **SAY A PRAYER FOR A STRANGER YOU PASS WHILE OUT SHOPPING.** Nearly everyone you meet is going through some kind of personal problem. Offer a prayer for God's blessing and peace.

You can . . . **HOLD THE DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE.** It will make someone's day just a little bit easier.

You can . . . **OFFER SINCERE, KIND WORDS TO A PERSON WHO IS HURTING.** A simple spoken word of encouragement and love does much to ease pain.

You can . . . **PRAISE GENEROUSLY.** Nothing feels better than getting a compliment for something you've done.

You can . . . **FORGIVE THE DRIVER WHO CUT YOU OFF IN TRAFFIC.** Everyone needs grace so take a deep breath and say, "I forgive you."

You can . . . **VOLUNTEER TO WORK AT A SCHOOL WHERE NONE OF YOUR KIDS OR GRANDCHILDREN ATTEND.** Time is a precious, much appreciated gift.

You can . . . **PAY FOR THE COFFEE OF THE PERSON STANDING BEHIND YOU** at the local coffee shop. This gift may change that person's outlook on the entire day.

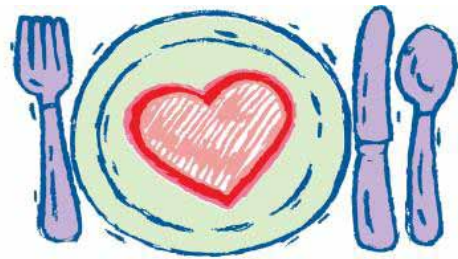
You can . . . **MAKE A MEAL, CAKE OR PIE AND GIVE IT TO A NEIGHBOR.** Reconnecting will be a joy for both of you and perhaps help someone's loneliness or isolation.

You can . . . **VISIT ONE OF CAMPBELL CHURCH'S ELDERLY SHUT-INS.** You'll make their day.

Which of these ideas sounds good to you? What other simple ways to pass on love and kindness can you think of? Which ones might you do?

Blessings in the Name of Christ,

Pastor Jim



## 9/11 Interfaith Dinner

Once again, on Tuesday evening, September 11th, our church will host an interfaith dinner and prayers, focusing on our outreach to the Muslim and Sikh communities this year. Those of you who have attended these 9/11 dinners and interfaith prayer events know how spectacular they are and how proud we, as a church congregation, can be for hosting them.

As always, Church & Society needs your help financially and your support in inviting people and attending. We particularly need people who will host tables and encourage conversation between Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Jews, and others.

Church & Society will be selling tickets to help fund this event after services for the next several weeks. We will also be looking for volunteers. If you can help, please speak with one of the Church & Society people at our table following the 9:00 service on Sundays.

Franklin Bondonno,  
Church & Society ❖

## SUNRISE SEEKERS

The Sunrise Seekers group will start up again after Labor Day, with a meeting on September 5. We will be studying John Dominic Crossan's "The Power of Parable". Crossan always gives us plenty to

discuss and we are looking forward to hearing what he has to say about the parables. The group meets in the Library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 6:45AM to 8AM. Yes, that is AM. Coffee and tea are provided. New people are always welcome. Come and give this group a try!

Sue Edson ❖

## BOOK GROUP

The Book Group's first meeting of the fall is on September 24, when we will talk about books we have read recently, with a view to choosing some titles for our monthly discussions. The group meets on the 4th Monday of the month in the Fireside Room from 4 – 5:30 pm. Drop-ins are always welcome.

Sue Edson ❖



Come join the fun on September 5th as the Joyful Notes Choir begins another great choir year!

The Joyful Notes meet in the second floor choir room of the AMY Building from 4:00-5:00 on Wednesdays. Everyone age K-8th grade welcome!

Questions? Please call Mrs. Groff, Director, at 395-9215 or e-mail at [dcgroff@yahoo.com](mailto:dcgroff@yahoo.com) ❖



## 50+ GROUP

On Friday, September 21 we will do our 11th walk with the San Francisco City Guides. This walk will be Billionaire's Row: Outer Broadway Architecture. We will be exploring the most exclusive corner of Pacific Heights, where, since the late 19th century, San Francisco's wealthiest families have built mansions with spectacular views of the Bay.

Find out what society family runs a nursery school from their home and what rehab program had its headquarters in this unlikely setting. Stroll past a Victorian Firehouse turned private residence and visit a humble church that started a new architectural movement. Following the tour, we will have lunch in a nearby restaurant.

The cost of the walk is \$10 for seniors 65 and over and \$12 for under 65. Meet at the church at 9:15 a.m. for car pooling. Signups will be between services September 2, 9, and 16. Any questions, call Jack or Joyce at 268-4646. ❖

## CARTOON CORNER



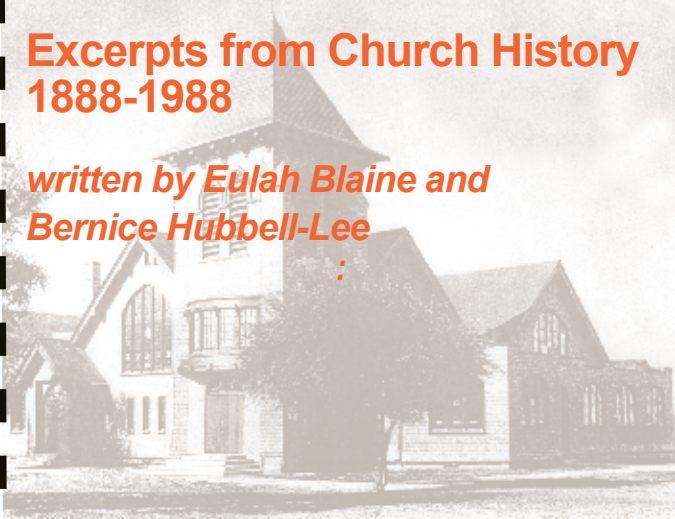
# HISTORY HELPERS

"snippets from our past"

**EXCERPT NO.2**

## Excerpts from Church History 1888-1988

written by Eulah Blaine and  
Bernice Hubbell-Lee



In 1890, the Reverend T.B. Hopkins was appointed minister for the Campbell-Saratoga area. A Board of Trustees, elected at the first quarterly conference, secured a suitable lot for the church on the north side of Campbell Avenue between Central Avenue and First Street. A one and a half story frame building was built with Gothic windows, a tall steeple, a bell tower, and a basement where Sunday School classes and fellowship events were held. It was dedicated on April 30, 1891. The total cost for the church and lot was \$3,180. This was the first of the three Sanctuaries built for the First Methodist Church of Campbell.



## STOP HUNGER NOW

**EXPANDS TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**and CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Stop Hunger Now (SHN) is a United Methodist-affiliated international hunger relief agency that has been fulfilling its mission to end hunger for over 13 years. Through its unique meal packaging program, SHN can easily pack and transport millions of much-needed meals to hungry children around the world. Working with school lunch programs, SHN is able to relieve hunger, promote health and encourage education in hunger-stricken areas. Stop Hunger Now is an effective organization of dedicated people doing great things for some of the neediest of God's children.

Nine people (7 adults, 2 children) from Campbell UMC recently attended what SHN calls a "Demonstration Event" held at Los Gatos UMC. We talked with SHN's founder, heard of its plans for the Bay Area and participated in the packaging of 2,000 meals!

We left committed to having Campbell UMC sponsor a 1-day Packaging Event at which we will pay for and package 10,000 meals! Details are yet to be worked out but here's the key information:

- **WHO?** All interested persons at Campbell UMC and Our Friends
- **WHAT?** A Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging Event
- **WHERE?** Fellowship Hall
- **WHEN?** November 2012 (Date to be determined)
- **WHY?** Serve Christ by Serving Hungry Children
- **HOW MUCH?** 4 Hours of Time and \$2,500

Interested? Talk to Pastor Jim for more information and watch for a detailed announcement in the near future.

# In the COMMUNITY

## PRAYER FLAGS FLY AT ELMWOOD!

*Simple, Meaningful, Powerful, Beautiful*

The Campbell United Methodist Church (CUMC) Art and Spirit Ministry team recently worked with both minimum and medium security women at the Elmwood Women's Correctional Facility creating prayer flags together. The team made extensive preparations, met at the jail for three consecutive sessions in each unit, and then hung the prayer flags that were created outside the worship space at the jail and



inside the medium security unit. The team participated in worship with 84 women at the jail, gave a blessing after the flags were hung and dedicated the flags in medium security. These were very powerful and moving experiences for the women of Elmwood, as well as for our team.

The process was truly amazing grace! Not only did we feel the Spirit of hope, compassion and love in these meetings, but the administration at Elmwood supported the program and allowed the flags to be hung inside the jail -- a first! An officer in medium security also wrote:

*"Today was the first day of a three day series for the "Art and Spirit" program run by the Chaplaincy group. The class was held in the day room of W4B, beginning at 0900 hours and ending at approximately 1100 hours. Today's class consisted of prayer, painting and creating prayer flags, sharing among the inmates and songs/singing. Chaplain Louann was present during the class along with four volunteers that worked with the inmates. The class is currently offered only to inmates in purple group, is completely voluntary and 30 of the inmates in purple group participated in today's class. The class ran very smoothly without any issues and the inmates appeared to really enjoy the class and were very appreciative of the class and the instructors. The class will be held the next two Fridays during the same time block. If the class is successful for the next two weeks, I would like to respectfully suggest that we offer the program to the inmates in Green group also. Some of the girls have already expressed an interest in participating."*



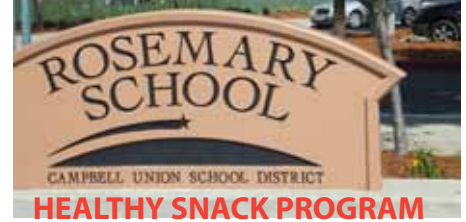
Making prayer flags is a way to reconnect with spirit and creativity. It is also a way to become a positive spiritual force in the world -- no matter what a person's situation or circumstance is.

To me there are few things more beautiful than colorful prayer flags fluttering in the wind--sometimes waving gently, sometimes raging; a dance of shadow and light. There is perhaps no simpler way to create good merit in this troubled world of ours than to put prayer flags up for the benefit of other living beings. Prayer flags are not just pretty pieces of colored cloth with funny writing on them. The ancient Buddhist prayers, mantras and powerful symbols displayed on them produce a spiritual vibration that is activated and carried by the wind across the countryside. All beings that are touched by the wind are uplifted and a little happier. The silent prayers are blessings spoken on the breath of nature. Just as a drop of water can permeate the ocean, prayers dissolved in the wind extend to fill all of space.



*Simple, Meaningful, Powerful, Beautiful. . .*

Elaine Bondonno, Kathleen McDavid ❖



*Matthew 19:14: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these."*

*Isaiah 58:10: "If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight."*

By the time you read this, school will have been in session for about a month with many hungry children in attendance. The Healthy Snack Program that ran from March to June was very successful with many positive comments from students, teachers and office staff.

Church & Society would like to sponsor the program again with a goal of feeding the children the entire school year. We NEED your help to accomplish this. Thank you to those who have signed up as volunteers already and to those who have generously donated money to buy the snacks.

The snacks will be served on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at recess. There are two recesses, so the time commitment would be from 10:00 a.m.-11:00a.m. There needs to be 2 volunteers each day.

The cost of the snack provided is approximately \$100 per week. We have served up to 200 children each day.

If you can help feed the children at Rosemary School, please contact Sue Foyle at [suefoyle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suefoyle@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 378-7388. You can choose to volunteer 1 hour or many hours - it is up to you.

If you are unable to give your time, monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. You can place your donation in the offering plate (please clearly mark it for the Rosemary School Healthy Snack Program) or bring it to the church office. Thank you so much!

Sue Foyle, Church & Society Committee ❖

# Circuit Writer



## A River Flowing Into Our Souls

Rev. Larry LaPierre

Many of us know what it's like to "have more on our plate" than we can handle. I first heard that expression in my second parish. A four-year-old boy had been disruptive during the Sunday worship service, and some people complained about "Matthew." The Lay Leader brought the concern to me, but to my surprise she did not recommend trying to do anything directly about the child. She said, "Alice," (Matthew's mother) "has more on her plate than she can manage." In fact, she did, and we decided that it was up to the church to support the mother in coping with a dysfunctional situation. They did.

However, not everyone has a supporter like that Lay Leader. Not everyone has a congregation to back them up either. I used to try to make sense of that reality for the veterans with whom I served as a chaplain at the VA hospital in Vermont. Many of them had been traumatized in several ways—even prior to war. As a result of their traumas, many of them were not easy to live with. In fact, many of them had been divorced several times. Some were quite antisocial. They needed a way to begin to make sense of what was happening to them and how they could respond more lovingly.

I used to draw a diagram of a mountain on the chalk board. Half way down the mountain I would draw a lake. The only other details that I added were a river flowing into the lake from higher up the mountain and a second river that flowed out of the lake and down its slope.

Then I would ask them a question: "What happens to the lake if the amount of water flowing out is greater than the amount flowing in?" I would assure them that it was not a trick question. The obvious answer is, "The lake eventually goes dry."

Yes, and so do we. The mountain is a word picture for where and how we

experience God with us ("Emmanuel"). It's nearly impossible to avoid the forces that drain the lake which is our soul/spirit. Sickness, loss of a job, conflict at home or work, ageing or caring for ageing parents, addictive behaviors and many other factors drain us to the point of despair or death. We are so busy trying to cope with the outflow from the lake that we hardly pay attention to the river flowing into our souls/spirits.

The river that flows into us, to use a Wesleyan term, begins with "Prevenient Grace." It is literally grace that "comes before" (pre: "before;" venir: "to come;" Latin) we are even aware of God or of the river of grace flowing from God to us. Having given us this grace, God expects us to respond. How? Ideally, we respond by accepting this gift of God's self to us particularly in the life and personhood of Jesus. But this acceptance of God's gift has to be an ongoing process. The lake must continue to be filled every day by spiritual disciplines that we use to open our souls to the river of grace waiting to fill us. I will write more about these spiritual disciplines.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖



Disciple Bible STUDY

### Teaching/Facilitating Disciple Bible Study

"What makes me qualified to teach Disciple classes and/or the Bible?" you might be asking. "Where have I had my training to take on such a task?" Well, here's a little information about my background in Bible study and how I arrived at this stage of my learning and teaching.

I graduated from a Christian college in 1962 with a BA in Religion, my goal being to become a minister. As often happens in college, my aspirations changed over the course of my studies and although I graduated with a degree, I went on to a secular college, eventually graduating with a couple of Masters Degrees in English Literature

and Library Science in 1974. All through college I continued to read and study the Bible, attending various churches, looking for the one I felt could meet my needs.

In 2000 I "discovered" this Methodist church and began to attend regularly. I met many wonderful and dedicated Christians at this church including the ministers Dick and Bobbie Corson and Cheryl Olson, the Director of Christian education. It was through Cheryl I began to attend Disciple classes, eventually completing the four that were offered as well as other classes taught by Cheryl. I found it to be a stimulating and exciting experience, not only meeting new people and listening to their understanding of what was being studied but learning from Cheryl teaching. After several years, Cheryl asked me if I wanted to try teaching a class myself. I was hesitant because I questioned my ability but Cheryl encouraged me, arranging training for me and other interested people. This training provided me with a good understanding of how to approach this task.

After Cheryl passed away and time went on in the life of the church, I felt a calling to share my love of the scriptures through the Disciple study program. It has been a rich, rewarding experience and has blessed me in many ways. As most teachers will tell you, teaching is a two-way process, we learn as much from the students as they learn from us.

There is a wonderful story in Acts 8:26-40 about the Disciple Philip who encounters an Ethiopian sitting in a chariot reading from the book of Isaiah. "Do you understand what you are reading," Philip asked and the Ethiopian answered: "How can I unless someone guides me." That passage speaks volumes to me; how can we understand unless someone guides us. That is what effective sermons and in depth Bible study will provide for us, an understanding of God's word.

I hope I see you in class soon,  
Lenora P. Blouin

Disciple Bible Study, Teacher/  
Facilitator ❖



# Methodist Connection

## United Methodist Women

### BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN JONES

**Bamboo People** by Mitali Perkins

**Category:** Educational Mission 2012

**Pages:** 270

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\*stars



This is a story narrated by two young fourteen-year-old boys who are on opposing sides of a war between the Burmese government and the Karenni. Chiko, is a Burmese youth, and has been seized by the government because of his conflicting views and is enlisted into the Burmese army. Reh, a Karenni boy, who after the Burmese soldiers destroyed his home and fields, is eager to fight for his people. Rey and Chiko are forced into a situation that neither understand and are on opposite sides of the conflict. Despite the opposition, these two young boys become friends and demonstrate their courage to overcome violence and prejudice. This is an excellent read and I recommend it.

**Allow God To Wear Your Face** by Alice G. Knotts

**Category:** Nurturing Community 2012

**Pages:** 61

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\*stars

United Methodist Women, spiritual friends and others...sometime wonder about what is the best thing to do or say to family and friends that are sick, facing surgery and dying. This little book can help caregivers give spiritual care instead of preaching or giving advice. The Rev. Dr. Alice G. Knotts proves practical wisdom, shared through stories, guides people to facilitate healing of relationships, emotions, spirit, and body. This book will provide you with confidence as you express God's love to those you care for.

*This book can be overlooked on the reading program cart. It is a small book... only 61 pages. Check it out the next time you are in the Fireside Room.*

**Francis The Saint of Assisi A Novel** by Joan Mueller

**Category:** Spiritual Growth 2012

**Pages:** 272

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\*stars

I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in St. Francis and or the Franciscans. This is a remarkable historical story of Francis who lived in the thirteen-century. The story line starts with Francis who is a rich merchant who lives lavishly with his family and friends. However, Francis wants to be more, he thinks maybe nobleman, or a knight. Battle was the best place to win the glory and prestige he longed for. He got his first chance when Assisi declared war on their longtime enemy, the nearby town of Perugia. Unfortunately, he is captured and held for ransom. After spending time in prison, he is ransomed and returned to home. He still feels his life is missing something and through prayer and solitude chooses religion instead of the life he is living. The story continues from this point with many colorful characters like Clara, the beautiful noblewoman, Brother Angelo, Brother Giles, Brother Illuminato, Pope Innocent III and many more. Many of these brothers changed their lives as Francis did, by committing to live their lives in poverty. This book is interesting and insightful on how the Franciscan Order was established and how they lived their lives dedicated to preaching the word of God.

*The history lesson is good, but the story line is great!*

Susan Jones ❖

**Healthy Choices,  
Healthy Spirits**  
*Rediscovering the body as a  
means of grace*

**One-Day Spiritual Retreat**

**Saturday, September 29, 2012**

**8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

The El Camino Real District United Methodist Women (UMW) are hosting a one day spiritual retreat at Willow Glen United Methodist Church in San Jose. All are invited!

The Rev. Rebecca Ireland will be the leader for the retreat. More information and registration forms are available on the district UMW website at: [www.gbmg-umc.org/elcamino-real\\_dumw](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/elcamino-real_dumw), or, in the UMW box in the church office. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 19th.**

Any additional questions, please contact Sally Wenzel, Campbell UMW President, 408-371-7466 ❖

## California-Nevada Conference



*News from the  
California-Nevada  
Conference*  
**Franklin "Scottie" Scott  
Dies**

Former Campbell United Methodist Church Pastor Franklin Scott died on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 in Lincoln, CA. Scottie served churches in Oakland, Alameda, Richmond and Napa in addition to Campbell UMC. He also served as the Superintendent of the Fresno District and worked briefly for the General Board of Global Ministries. A Memorial Service is planned for Saturday, September 1st, 9:30am, at the Lincoln UMC.



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Mailing Date: August 22, 2012  
Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**  
**September 12, 2012**  
**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.



*Wasn't my celebration AWESOME?*

*There aren't enough "Thank You's" in the world to express my deep appreciation for all the effort to make my 100th Birthday a whopping success.*

*Without the leadership of Barbara Wade, Mary Ann Gee, and Pastor Jim it couldn't have happened.*

**THANK YOU!!**

*And a million more thanks to all of you for your generosity toward our Cambodian Friends - over 300 hymnals - WOW.*

*My love and prayers to all of you.*

*God Bless,  
Evelyn Buck*