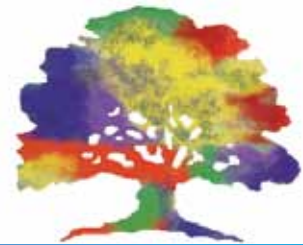


# Campbell



## CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER, 2012



### Family Ministries

Welcome to Holly Aspiras, the newly appointed Family Ministry Coordinator. This part-time ministry will be a great addition to Campbell United Methodist Church (UMC) ministries. Holly can be reached at 408-378-3472 x14, or email at: [campbellumcfamilies@earthlink.net](mailto:campbellumcfamilies@earthlink.net)

Dear Campbell Church Family,  
I am honored to be working as the Family Ministry Coordinator at Campbell UMC because this is a very exciting time in the life of our church. We have some awesome events already planned for the church, with the Autumn festival on October 28th and Merry Mayhem on December 2nd. Other events on the calendar are the Third grade Bible presentation and retreat, Vacation Bible School, and Sierra Service Project. We continue to offer youth groups for our Fourth and Fifth graders, Middle and High school students, as well as, Sunday School programs, various Choir and music programs.

#### Our Mission

To provide a dynamic, comprehensive Family Ministry for adults, youth, and children that nourishes spiritual growth, family renewal, and Christian

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### VETERANS



**In the Words of  
Fenwicke (Fen) Holmes  
WWI Marine Corps  
interviewed by Dave Sargent**

The first "Holmes" came from York, England in 1628 and settled in Bedford, New York. Five generations later, because of the Revolutionary War, many New Yorkers who were identified as Loyal to the King were exiled to Nova Scotia in 1783. Fen's great-grandfather was one of those exiles. Fen's grandfather was born in New Brunswick, Canada, but crossed to Maine where he met his wife. Fen's parents were both born in Maine and graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Fen's father, Jerome, went to Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut. Upon graduation he married Fen's mother, Jennie Edwards. They immediately set out in 1913 for the life of Congregational missionaries in Japan where they served for 10 years with one year sabbatical in 1920. Fen's older brother was born in Tokyo in 1915. Fen was born in Kobe in 1918. In 1923 the family moved to the

*continued on p. 6*

### NOVEMBER

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 9:00 and 10:45 am

**November 4**  
Daylight savings ends

**November 11**  
Veterans Day  
Farewell luncheon for Pastor Mishler

**November 18**  
Consecration Sunday  
Alternative Gift Faire  
Integrated Circuit Charge  
Conference

**November 25**  
Thanksgiving Sunday

## 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**  
**Renee Eilerts, Church Secretary**  
**FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR**  
**Holly Aspiras**  
**VOLUNTEER YOUTH COORDINATOR**  
**Melinda Knepp**  
**CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada**

**Church Office: 408 378-3472**  
**Web Site: 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



## Pastor's Point of View

Dear Friends,

*I have to confess that I find this "retirement process" a bit confusing. I suspect this is because, in organizing my retirement, I'm dealing with big government (the Social Security Administration); the vast health care system (2 Doctors, 3 insurance companies); the national UMC (the General Board of Pensions); the regional UMC (2 Bishops, 2 District Superintendents; 2 Offices of Pensions and Health Benefits) and the local UMC (our talented Staff Parish Relations Committee and Trustees). And that's not to mention Jan's and my own personal feelings about retirement and the concerns of our children for "Dad's health and our parents' future." I take encouragement from the fact that many of you have dealt with it and survived!*

*This process has kept me busy but also thoughtful. And much of my thinking has been about you, this community of faith we call Campbell UMC. My thoughts have led me to this conclusion: My retirement is a distraction but in no way a disaster as the church seeks to continue "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."*

*That's because:*

- *We have a vital, spirit-filled Worship and Music life in which we look for God's call and guidance for our individual and corporate lives*
- *We are a wonderfully diverse community (and a Reconciling Church!) committed to caring for one another in good times and bad*
- *We've recently begun 3 new spiritual formation groups*
- *Our church has developed significant "signature programs" that well-serve our extended community: Our Interfaith relationship with the Muslim community and the 9/11 Dinner; the growing Jail Ministry Program; the Rosemary School relationship and the Feeding Program*
- *We've renewed our support for mission and ministry for exciting programs well beyond the Bay Area (Over \$7,500 this year)*
- *We've resolved the Parsonage-related financial difficulties*
- *We're embarking on an ambitious Family Ministry journey that will nurture spirituality and develop ministry involvement with middle adults and their children. (See Holly Aspiras' article for more info)*

*And I look forward to hearing reports of even greater ministry and mission in the days ahead! Please know that every time I think of you it will be with gratitude and every time I pray I will ask for God's continuing blessings for you and the church.*

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Jim*



### These Feet Were Made for Walking



YOU are invited to TLC (Trekking to Lunch in Campbell). We meet at or about 10:45 am on Fridays at the Campbell Community Center track, walk fast or slow or in-between, and promptly go to lunch at 11:45, usually at Aqui on Campbell Avenue. ALL are welcome. For more information, contact Dave or Susan Sargent, 408-378-1232. ❖

### Rock-a-Bye Baby

36 layette kits were delivered to the Valley Medical Center Maternity Unit. This project had begun at the beginning of the summer. Our hope was to collect enough items to complete 25 kits. However, thanks to the generosity of the wonderful people here at church, we collected enough to send 36 kits. Each layette kit contained one sweater, one hat, one blanket, one nightie, two receiving blankets, three onsies and eight disposable diapers. These kits are a true blessing to those families who are in need of a little hand up.

So if you find yourself with nothing to do this coming winter, please feel free to knit a few sweaters, sew a couple of nighties, or pick up some disposable diapers. You can count on us doing this project again next summer.

Lou Woodburycatcott, United Methodist Women ❖

### Something Extra for SCRIP

Nob Hill Shoppers -- sign up for the new Raleys/Nob Hill Something Extra program and then go to their EXTRA CREDIT section. Add Campbell United Methodist Church as your Organization. Every time you shop

and enter your ID# (phone number) CUMC will get a donation.

This replaces the 'Community Partners' program.

If you have questions ask at Nob Hill, stop by the Scrip table or contact Janine Payton at: thepaytons@sbcglobal.net

Janine Payton ❖



### Peace and Love

Advent is just around the corner and it is time to be preparing for the arrival of our Lord and Savior. Christ's message has always been to show peace to all nations and have love for our neighbors. *What better way to share this wonderful message with our congregation and with those who come to our church during the Holiday season than with a stunning visual.* This year we would like to make hundreds, maybe even thousands, of doves to hang in our sanctuary to symbolize the message of the impending birth of Christ. We are asking that you help us during the month of November between church services make paper doves. We will have tables set up and instructors to show you how to make them. Let's all be a part of this wonderful message that will adorn our sanctuary.

Lou Woodburycatcott ❖

### Integrated Circuit Charge Conference

Campbell United Methodist Church (CUMC) is hosting the seven other local congregations of the Integrated Circuit for the annual Charge Conference on November 18th. Please join us with dinner starting at 5pm.

Bruce Hallinan ❖

### Church Council

Your Church Council has been kept busy with the start of a new season for Committees and church groups. Our goal is to continue our outreach into the community while offering a loving environment for our members during their spiritual journey with Christ. We welcome Holly Aspiras as she joins the staff and develops the Family Ministries.

Of course, everyone is saddened by Pastor Jim's sudden retirement but the Staff Parish Relations Committee has done a great job in making the transition as smooth as possible. The Trustees have also arranged for Jim and Jan to rent the parsonage until May 2013 to allow Jim to recuperate without too much disruption. Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is working with the District Superintendent on a fill-in pastor until a permanent appointment is made mid-year. The Finance Committee reports that no additional financial outlay is expected due to the transition.

There are many more mission programs that the church would like to be involved with, but we just don't have the funds. The future of our church depends on your continued extravagant generosity.

The Church Council next meets on Wednesday, December 5th at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Everyone is invited to participate.

Bruce Hallinan, Chair ❖

### Finances

The Church finances are relatively healthy for the year-to-date end of September.

| 3rd Qtr      | Income           | Expenses         |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| July         | 40,355           | 26,770           |
| August       | 36,201           | 39,006           |
| September    | 46,979           | 55,719           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$123,535</b> | <b>\$121,495</b> |

Thank you to everyone who has given their time, talent and

On the Campus *continued on p. 7*

# In the COMMUNITY

## Rosemary School Healthy Snack Program

The Rosemary School Healthy Snack Program is well underway for the new school year. There are 11 volunteers from Campbell UMC with an additional 4 who will be starting in January. The volunteers hand out cereal bars at recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our goal is to supply the children with snacks for the entire school year.

All of the volunteers can tell you countless stories about their experiences with the children. There is nothing that warms the heart more than seeing the children come hurrying up to the snack cart and ask in their most polite voice, "May I please have a snack?" For many of the children, English is not their first language, so many struggle with getting the correct words out. One little girl came up to the cart with her teacher and did not say a word. The teacher said she was very shy and she tried to get her to ask for a snack. She never did ask, but after given the snack when she turned to leave she said, "Thank you."

According to the principal, "Though over 80% of our children come from homes living below the poverty line and about 75% of our students come from homes where a language other than English is spoken we are doing the hard work of getting the students on the path to career and college readiness. The work of educating a child in a neighborhood like ours is impossible without the school, the families, and the community working together. Without the support of organizations such as Campbell United Methodist Church our job would be that much more difficult."

The principal told me that the API test scores for spring 2012 indicated that Rosemary School's scores had improved by 40 points. As much as we would like to think our snacks were responsible it was more likely the hard

work of teachers, staff, and parents. This does emphasize the fact that the children do need some nourishment in the morning so that they are awake and alert for learning.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the United Methodist Women, the ministry is funded through January. Donations of time and monetary contributions will still be gratefully accepted. Please contact Sue Foyle (408-378-7388) if you would like to volunteer your time or give a monetary donation. The children thank you!!

Sue Foyle ❖

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Share the blessings of Christmas by "adopting" the family of an incarcerated person this year through Justice Empowerment Services (*formerly Friends Outside*). This is a wonderful ministry opportunity for your family, your neighborhood, or your church or study group. Specify what size of family you want to adopt, and provide gifts for each family member and food for Christmas dinner.

To sign up, contact Justice Empowerment Services at 408-325-5199, or email: [LBaker@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:LBaker@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org).

For those of you who would like to participate but can't afford to adopt an entire family, we will again offer the Wishing Tree in November and early December. Choose a gift from the tree, bring the wrapped gift to the church, and it will be delivered to Justice Empowerment Services to bring joy to the family of an incarcerated person. ❖

## Hopes and Dreams in Jail

*"May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in God, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

The Campbell United Methodist Church (CUMC) Art and Spirit Ministry to Elmwood Jail has expanded to include 3 units in the jail, and now serves approximately 100 inmates. There are 13 volunteers who visit the jail regularly to bring healing and hope to this place where people are in crisis and feel invisible and forgotten.

This last month, 9 spiritual creativity workshops were held in these units, focused on a message of Hope & Dreams. Each session included prayer, scripture, music, writing and art -- opening us all to hear and see God in many ways.



Two CUMC volunteers reflect below on the compassion, gratitude and grace we experienced as we created art journals with the inmates:

### **W2: Minimum security women**

For the last 3 Monday nights our Elmwood team has been creating art journals with the women in W2 minimum security. It's always a little daunting going in – what kind of group will we have this time? Every session has been so rewarding, because the women are extraordinarily grateful for the two hours they are not invisible...

*continued on p. 9*

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

## United Methodist Women

### BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN JONES

***I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali with Delphine Minoui**  
**Category: Nurturing Community 2012**  
**Pages: 188**  
**Rating: \*\*\*\*stars**



Nujood Ali, a ten-year old Yemeni girl was sold off and forced into marrying an older man. She refused to put up with the terrible abuse she suffered daily at his hands. Nujood, against all odds, ran away, and with the help of a lawyer, and some compassionate judges, she got what she wanted: a divorce. Nujood tells a heart-wrenching story that seems impossible and apart from our own. This short story is a must read, so that children like Nujood's voice are heard. All I can say is, "hooray Nujood for being so brave in telling us your story".

### ***Rediscovering Values* by Jim Wallis**

**Category: Social Action 2012**  
**Pages: 229**  
**Rating: \*\*\*\*stars**

In the pages of this book, Wallis provides us with a moral compass for this new economy—one that will guide us on Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street.

Embracing a New Economy Getting back to "the way things were" is not an option. It is time we take our economic uncertainty and use it to find some moral clarity. Too often we have been ruled by the maxims that greed is good, it's all about me, and I want it now. Those can be challenged only with some of our oldest and best values—enough is enough, we are in it together, and thinking not just for tomorrow but for future generations.

Jim Wallis shows that the solution to our problems will be found only as individuals, families, friends, churches, mosques, synagogues, and entire communities wrestle with the question of values together.

Susan Jones ❖

## 6th Annual Tea Report

### *Confession of a Tea Crasher*

There's always one...and I was it this time! You know, "someone" who forgets to sign up, RSVP, etc. I sailed eagerly into the elegant dining area in Fellowship Hall last Sunday, anticipating the special occasion. There were beautiful nametags carefully laid out on a table and I scanned the neat rows for my name. Oh no, my name wasn't there. I was directed to the lady in charge, Lou Woodburycattcott. By this time I was ready to quietly sneak out of



the side door as the realization gradually formed in my brain - regarding my intentions vs. my actions. I knew that I intended on attending the Tea, but somehow had managed to bypass all the process. But Lou was having none of that and squeezed me around her table, sharing her china, making sure I would have a plate of delicacies laid out in the form of tea sandwiches, miniature cakes, chicken salad tartlets and scones.

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## Care-A-Vaners

### Pavilion Dedication



When Care-a-Vaners arrived at Shasta Camp this September our first job was to spruce things up. Company was coming. It was finally time to dedicate the new "Pavilion" building. On Saturday there were dignitaries from the camping committee, former campers, and a representative from the local Native American Tribe. We also had several Care-A-Vaners who came for just a day or two including Marv and Ina Tanner. There were tours of trails and camp buildings, a special lunch complete with cake, and of course singing. A good day was had by all.

Our oldest Care-A-Vaner, Ralph, is about ready to celebrate his 90th birthday, so while we were all together we threw him a surprise birthday party. Lots of photographs were shared, including those put into a memory book for Ralph. Many people had Ralph stories to tell. The restaurant usually has the birthday person pose for photos wearing a sombrero. Ralph even put up with that.

During our stay there was also a lot of work to be done. Dave and Sue Sargent fixed a portion of the nature trail that had suffered from erosion, and the fact that the chlorinator for the water system sort of ended up in the middle of the trail. So Sue and Dave ended up actually creating a new section of trail. Thank goodness they are experienced in this kind of activity.

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 Connections 5



Family Ministries

continued from p. 1

service through a program that values diversity, inclusive attitudes, progressive thinking, life-affirming relationships and a deeper bond with Jesus Christ.

My hope for Family Ministry is to fill our classrooms with children and strengthen our youth to serve and embrace the community, while reaching out to our church family to build a stronger church through teaching God's love to all. This church has so many wonderful opportunities for mission and spiritual growth. I hope to plan events and activities that include family fun events, parent study groups, with added service projects for youth and families. I will also be finding childcare for all church events. Our goal is to encourage and assist individuals and families on their Christian journeys to become: Growing Children, Strong Youth, Mature Adults, and Loving Families.

I grew up in Palo Alto and was baptized, confirmed, and married in the First UMC. After moving to San Jose our family started to attend Campbell UMC and eventually joined this church in 1999. Dan and I have watched our children grow up and thrive here. I want to spread the good news of all the wonderful activities CUMC has to offer our families and families in the surrounding communities. There are so many wonderful things happening here and so much more that we can accomplish together.

If you would like to chat, I am around during coffee hour between services. Alternatively, I can be reached at 408-378-3472 x14 or via email at [campbellumcfamilies@earthlink.net](mailto:campbellumcfamilies@earthlink.net). I will not be able to do this alone and welcome your thoughts and ideas. By working together we will become one family in God and Jesus Christ.

Holly Aspiras,  
Family Ministries Coordinator ❖



In the Words of Fen Holmes

continued from p. 1

missionary compound in Claremont, California, but Fen's father stayed behind where he experienced the great Kanto Plain earthquake. It was 6 weeks after the quake before he was known to have survived because the undersea cables between Japan and the US were interrupted by the quake.

Fen's father acted as Western Secretary of the American Board of Missions, in San Francisco and the family settled in Mill Valley for 3 years. Then the family moved to Santa Rosa for 3 years where Fen's dad was a pastor of the Santa Rosa Congregational Church. In 1930 he was called by the Hawaiian Board of Missions and served as a missionary – pastor in Waialua (Oahu) for 6 years and on Maui for 3 more. Fen attended high school on Oahu and then spent 2 more years at the University of Hawaii. The family moved to Southern California where he graduated from UCLA in 1941 with a degree in philosophy after studying under Bertrand Russell. Fen lettered in swimming and water polo at both universities.

In his last semester at UCLA Fen took a voluntary English course and found himself, because of the alphabetical seating, to be sitting next to a co-ed whose last name was Hoon. Fen and Betty Hoon became engaged while Fen was on home leave from Quantico in October 1941.

Soon after graduation from UCLA, Fen had gone to Quantico, VA, as a PFC, to take the Officer Candidates' class. After 4 months, with 300 candidates from a class of 400, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. His Commission came 5 weeks before Pearl Harbor at which time he was enrolled in the Reserve Officers Class. He had applied for a regular commission however he told the higher-ups that he intended to be married. At that time the regular officers had to serve 2 years before

they could get married, hence Fen's reserve commission.

It was a year and a half before Fen's regular commission caught up with him, at which time he was on Guadalcanal in the thick of WWII in the Pacific. Almost in the same mail he received a nasty summons from his draft board threatening him with all sorts of dire results if he did not report immediately. However, Fen preferred the nightly bombardment to submitting to the draft board's threats.

Fortuitously, the Marine Corps had ordered Fen to the Los Angeles area as a recruiting officer at the Southern California colleges to find more fodder for the Officer Candidates' training. This made marriage possible and convenient and he and Betty were married in West Los Angeles on March 24th 1942 with Fen's dad, Rev. Jerome Holmes, officiating.

After Recruiting Duty was complete, Fen reported to Camp Elliot, near San Diego, where the 9th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division was being formed. In the fall of 1942 the regiment marched for 3 days up Highway 395 to Camp Pendleton, an old Spanish grant province of 461 square miles, with lots of room for maneuvers.

Fen was the Machine Gun Officer of the 1st Battalion 9th Marines. But he held various other special titles such as Ship's Quartermaster (combat loading of troop transports) and as the Regimental Rubber Boat Officer (training all hands in amphibious landing from the rubber boats). ❖

*to be continued in December "Connections".*

*This unabridged version is divided into several issues and will be printed consecutively over the next few months.*

*To read the article in full, go to the church website at [www.campbellunited.org](http://www.campbellunited.org).*

*If you would like to be interviewed for this series please contact Heather Reynolds at: [hreynolds63@gmail.com](mailto:hreynolds63@gmail.com), or phone 408-971-6343; or, Dave Sargent at: [dnsargent@aol.com](mailto:dnsargent@aol.com).*

*Thanks to Fenwicke Holmes and Dave Sargent for the interview.*

## On the **CAMPUS**

continued from p. 3

treasures for the church to continue its outreach. We would like to grow the number of programs we currently have and touch even more lives but our finances are just keeping up with the status quo. Can you offer a little more before the holiday season to help a lot more?

Bruce Hallinan ❖

### Wear Your CUMCT-Shirt

Charge Conference will be held at our church on Sunday, November 18, 2012. The eight churches of our Integrated Circuit will be joining us. I am encouraging all members who own a blue Campbell T-shirt to wear it when you attend that meeting. This will identify you as a member of Campbell United Methodist Church and a person to answer the important questions:

*Where is my meeting room?  
Where is dinner being served?  
Where are the bathrooms?*

Since we are the host facility it is our job to make our visitors comfortable.

Elaine Hill ❖

### Alternative Gift Faire

Experience a different kind of Christmas giving this year by participating in the annual Alternative Gift Faire on Sunday, November 18th. Celebrate the birth of the Christ Child by giving to those in need, in honor of those you love. Many wonderful organizations will be participating in this year's faire, and there will international mission opportunities as well. Are Black Friday, traffic congestion, frenzied overspending, landfill waste and secular "more, more, more," really good ways to honor Him who was born Immanuel, God With Us? Remember the "reason for the season" and choose an alternative way of celebrating the holiday. ❖



On Sunday, November 18th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will show our gratitude to God for all his blessings by offering our pledges for

2013, to carry out God's work in the world. Plan to be present that Sunday, and watch your mail for information coming out early in November. ❖

### Senior Discussion Group

The Senior Discussion Group, which meets at 10:30 am on the third Tuesdays in the Fireside Room. On November 20, the topic is, "Can You Feel the Good Side of Worry?"

Think about it . . . Is it wrong to worry? All ideas and comments are welcome. Come and share or just listen. We will not meet in December.

Good food, fellowship and fun abound at the gathering of Single Seniors on third Sundays at 12:15 after the second service. We go to a variety of restaurants in order to satisfy the palates of everyone! On November 18 we will be gathering at THE WINCHESTER CHEF at 1325 S. Winchester Blvd., just south of Payne Ave. This restaurant features Chinese food.

We hope you beautiful single seniors will join in the fun.

Jean Kiskadden ❖

**Meredith Groff Rietdorf** recently was named Teacher of the Year (2012) by Cumberland Elementary School where she teaches kindergarten. At the same time and to her great surprise, she was also named Teacher of the Year (2012) by the Sunnyvale School District.

Meredith plays handbells with New A'Peal Ringers and also does the choreography for our annual children's musical during Spring.

Congratulations Meredith!



At the recent show of the Santa Clara Valley Wood Carvers Association held at Prospect High School gymnasium on October 13 and 14, 2012, **Rena Gooding** won two first places ( two blue ribbons ) for her sculptures entitled "Iguana" and " Little Girl Reading." Rena is active in Anna Circle of our UMW.

At the same show, **Jim Laflin** of West Bay Woodturners won first place ( a blue ribbon ) for his polished bowl.

Jim is a very active Wednesday Wonder Worker. Congratulations to both Jim and Rena!

## Circuit Writer



### When Veterans Return

Rev. Larry LaPierre

Veterans Day is an important day, and veterans are important people who sometimes get overlooked. Those of us who haven't "been there" usually don't realize what veterans have endured or been willing to endure. Here's just one example that I found on a Department of Veterans Affairs website for clergy who work with veterans. "55% of combat veterans agreed with the statement, 'I lost my faith during combat.'" That was shocking enough. Then it occurred to me, much later, that there was no information about how that happened. Was it the experience of being injured or seeing their best friend killed? Was it the anguish of not being able to make sense of war no matter who wins? Or was it because of the question, asked of me by more than one veteran of combat, "How could God allow me to do what I did, Chaplain?"

What do we say to the veteran? Do we mouth platitudes like some VA counselors I knew who said, "You did what you had to do." They were referring to combat as if it was a job, and, to be fair, I've heard a number of younger veterans refer to combat as a job.

Does the Church have some response to the combat veteran and his/her family when they can't make sense of their suffering? Well, before we offer any answers, we need to hear the questions. Before we hear the questions it helps to hear the personal accounts of those who experienced combat, imprisonment, torture, deprivation and more.

Some churches are quick to judge our veterans even though Jesus said quite clearly, "Do not judge, so that you will not be judged." (Matthew 7:1) Other churches are quick to dismiss all sin saying, "Whatever you did might have been a mistake, but it wasn't

sin." Yes, sin is God's call, but what do we say when a person expresses guilt over what they did? Do we try to sweep it under the rug as if it didn't matter?

It is, of course, oversimplifying a complex problem to simply ask, "What would Jesus do?" On the other hand, it isn't a bad place to start if it reminds us that Jesus would almost certainly have taken the suffering of the combat or otherwise traumatized veteran seriously. Jesus was, after all, a healer. I imagine the veteran being welcomed by Jesus, invited to sit down at a meal and offered the opportunity to tell his/her story.

Maybe Sunday dinner isn't the right place to hear about some of the worst memories that some veterans have. Referring a deeply troubled veteran to the nearest VA or Veterans Center, perhaps while offering to drive them there, could lay the groundwork for bringing them to people who might be able to help them. So could inviting their spouses/partners to a Bible study, lunch or afternoon outing with their children—especially while the veteran is away on combat assignment or recovering in a hospital somewhere. Welcoming them home and helping them to feel at home in a church when they are ready can also be signs of affirmation and love.

(VA Chaplain - Retired) Rev. Larry LaPierre ♦

## WHY DON'T WE SING?

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about "why we sing." This time I'd like to continue with why we don't sing. There are a few reasons offered by John Bell in his book entitled *The Singing Thing*. One could be that a person at some vulnerable time has been told that he or she is not "tuneful" so for the sake of others, it's best not to sing. This unfortunate experience sometimes inhibits the decision to even try. It may sadly become a self-perception.

Another reason is that there are so many professional singers and artists that we listen to and now we feel we could "never sound like so and so." Let them sing their music and we just need to listen; a fallout from a performance culture. Perhaps we think that choirs should do their jobs.

Places and spaces very often make a difference in our singing. When people sit closer together, we dare to sing because we hear others singing. This is a simple idea but it works. I hope you'll give it a try. Remember that public worship is not private devotion. There are times when we need to be a community in praising God.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mary Ann Gee, Organist ♦

## HISTORY HELPERS

"snippets from our past"

EXCERPT NO. 4

### Excerpts from Church History 1888-1988

written by Eulah Blaine & Bernice Hubbell-Lee

When the settlers discovered the richness of the alluvial soil and the possibility of cultivating fruit trees, young orchards sprang up. Soon Campbell became known as the "Orchard City".

In the same year that our first church was dedicated, 1891, John Colpitts Ainsley experimented with cooking and canning fruit on a wood stove in a little shed on his property where Heritage Village Offices now stand (the northeast corner of Winchester Boulevard and Campbell Avenue). He sent samples of his pack to his brother in England, who immediately dispatched orders for more. That was the beginning of a 40-year boom for the fruit industry in Campbell.



## In the COMMUNITY

### Hopes and Dreams in Jail

*continued from p. 4*

Our focus this time was Hope. Creation of art journals began with painting long rolls of paper that ultimately comprised the pages, creating tissue paper collages and finally a "Wildest Dream" writing assignment with a dream collage made from magazine pages. (See photos). The third night we handed an assembled journal to each woman and gave them a few ideas for finishing the blank pages. We end each night with a sharing circle; there are always artists, poets and others eager to contribute. One poem shared was from a young woman whose daughter was deceased:

*Blessed Father up above, give my daughter all your love.  
Hold her tight against your chest; let her lay her head to rest.  
No more pain or endless suffering, only tenderness and cuddling.  
And please Dear Father hear my plea, when I die give her back to me.*

Inevitably, when I hear the clank of the doors locking behind us, I feel so glad that I get to go home, and that I have a home to go to...

CUMC volunteer Sheri Woodhouse

#### **M4: Medium security men**

As 6 volunteers from Campbell UMC enter Elmwood Jail M4 (Men's Medium Security) on our second visit, 30 men are anxiously awaiting us at the common area tables. The sound of the guitar and the men's voices echo off the cement floor and the cinderblock cell walls as we begin our session with the inmate-requested song: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". Even in jail, the inmates are praising God for another day, even behind bars! The men in M4 are treated as "the outcasts of the outcasts" -- they are in protective custody, not in the general population, either because they are gay or are charged with non-violent sex crimes.

After we complete the "Hope and Dreams" art journal project for the day, we move "outside" -- or at least what passes for outside in medium security -- a 30 x 30 ft enclosed atrium with 18 ft cement walls on all sides, and metal caged bars as a roof. But the men are glad to be there, at least they can see the blue sky -- one inmate says, "The sun feels good". We close with sharing around the circle. We are amazed and touched by how much these men share their thoughts and feelings. Their predominant message is one of thanks -- thanking the team for coming, for providing a creative outlet, and reminding them of God and what God wants for them. One inmate summarized the art/journal project: "It's important to keep thinking about the future, where you're going, not to keep looking over your shoulder at the past".

Campbell UMC is one of the few church teams that go into M4. As United Methodists, we follow John Wesley's lead by visiting and working with these inmates because we know that, even though the system may treat them as "the outcasts of the outcasts", ALL are worthy of God's grace and love.

CUMC volunteer Dave Foyle



Elaine Bondonno, Art & Spirit Ministry ❖

## United Methodist Women

### Confessions of a Tea Crasher

*continued from p. 5*

I'm not going to try to name all the ladies involved in the preparation of the Annual Tea, because I don't know, but the photos will give you a clue as to what you missed; and what you don't want to miss next year.

Along with the wonderful company of our United Methodist Women, there were 29 exciting gift baskets, and donation tickets to buy that got you a chance to receive one of them at the drawing after the tea. I didn't get one, but oh well, I can try again next year and I was busy taking photos of everyone else receiving theirs. The program was a report from Sue Foyle, given by Gail Jacobs, about the Rosemary School Snack Program. It was informative and well delivered and \$720 was raised to donate to it.



Next year I'm going to make sure that I sign up properly and send back my RSVP, and then someone else can get to write the article for the newsletter. To assuage my guilt at "crashing", I volunteered to be the photographer, write the article...and quite frankly I hope nothing else!

Finally, I just want to say that it was a wonderful afternoon and to send a big "Thank You" to all the ladies who contributed to making it such a success.

Yours truly, Heather Reynolds ❖

### It's Enchilada Time Again!

November 3rd is the day the United Methodist Women will make more than 1,000 enchiladas for your enjoyment. Enchiladas must be picked up on November 3rd, 2012, between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. If you cannot be there please arrange for someone else to pick them up for you.

Fill out an order and include payment at the church office: 1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell, CA 95008

Orders must be in by October 28th  
Janine Peyton ❖

## Care-A-Vaners

continued from p. 5



There are rocks all over this camp and no matter what has to be done, rocks need to be moved. This

new section of trail is well defined and easy to walk.

Elaine Hill headed up a wood team. We hauled logs, split wood, sorted sizes and filled the wood storage sheds for Buckner lodge, the new Pavilion, and the care takers cabin. Each building has a different requirement for the size of wood that will fit in the stove. Our two newest members found this activity a great deal of fun.

Gene Hill did the semi-annual check for gas leaks. This included the eleven pilot lights on the pavilion stove, the refrigerators, water heaters, and the lights in Buckner lodge. Since this

camp has no electricity, and Buckner is the lodge used for winter,



checking for leaks is very important. The most difficult appliance to work on was the Pavilion cooking stove. Thank goodness we had Ralph who knows how to fix older items, and has the supplies to do it.

Before we arrived Cal Fire had done some brush and tree trimming. There were piles of slash all over camp, and piles of logs for us to collect. When the snow falls, and the wind is calm the Forest Service will come and burn all of these small piles. We needed to leave by September 12 because Cal Fire was due the next day to complete their work on clearing. We did not like the looks of the piles, but were so grateful that we did not have to do all of that trimming.

Elaine Hill ❖

## UMVIM - Nomads

Elaine and Gene Hill joined the NOMADS RV-based United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) organization to explore some mission work team experiences outside of the California-Nevada conference of the United Methodist church.

NOMADS provide volunteer labor for United Methodist churches, camps, children's homes and for disaster rebuilding. Team members provide their own housing and meals in their motorhomes and travel trailers. There are 11,000 members of NOMADS across the country and 222 approved places where they might work. An average of about a dozen teams are at work someplace at any one time.

Our first work assignment with NOMADS was at the Ocean Park



Retreat Center and United Methodist Church camp on the Long Beach peninsula in Washington State, located on the North bank of the Columbia River where the river meets the Pacific Ocean. This camp is one of four that belong to the Pacific Northwest Conference of the Methodist Church. The Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery stayed in the area in the winter of 1805-1806.

We gathered on August 5, 2012. There were five of us. Our leaders were from Florida and the other team member was from Ohio. Each morning began with devotions, singing of hymns and a review of the work project.

Our initial assignment for the three-week project was to paint three

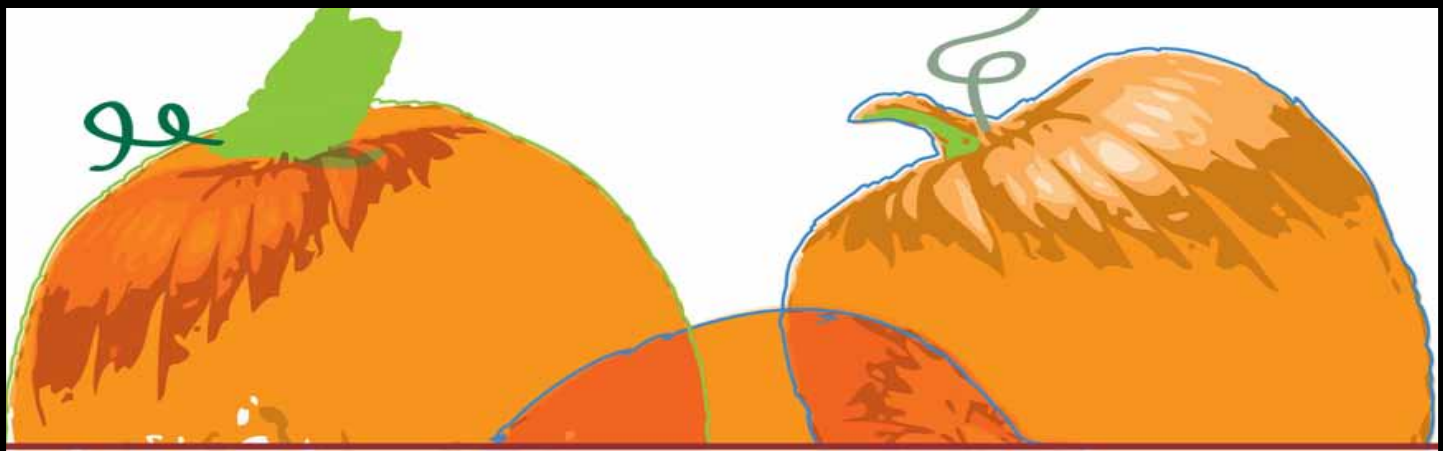
70-year old former military barracks buildings being used as dormitories at the camp. We accomplished this in four days. So the work project was expanded. By the end of the three weeks we had painted 11 buildings and two auxiliary structures. This included pressure washing, scraping off loose paint, painting trim and cleaning overspray off the windows. It is difficult to avoid overspray while spray painting in constant 10 to 12 mile per hour breezes. We used 200 gallons of Jersey Cream and Light Green paint.

We had a lot of great support from the staff and long-term volunteers at the camp. While in the area we attended the Ocean Park United Methodist church, and attended a church picnic at the parsonage where we were invited to pull fresh carrots from the church garden. On our tour of the parsonage we learned that the framing was done by a NOMADS team, and the sheet rock was done by another NOMADS team. There are several such teams with very specialized skills. Nearly all NOMADS can expect to paint and clean and do at least minor repairs at any work site. We also picked blueberries and blackberries, attended a junior rodeo and ate fresh halibut fish and chips.

Gene Hill ❖

## CARTOON CORNER





# Autumn Festival

## Sunday, October 28, 2012

Mark your calendars! The 2nd annual Autumn Festival will be held Sunday, October 28 from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Last year's event was such a great success we're bringing it back. Come and enjoy the games, crafts, cupcake walk and costume parade. If you get hungry there will be hot dogs and pizza.

This event, sponsored by Campbell United Methodist Church and New Creations Methodist Church, is for the whole family. So bring the kids, bring the grandkids and bring a friend for an evening of fun.

## UMYF TALKING "LISTEN UP"

### UMYF CALENDAR

**Sunday, October 28**

Autumn Festival - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 4**

Task Force Mtg - 10:30 to 11:30 am

Middle School - Miniature Golf

High School - Paint Ball

**Sunday, November 11**

Baking for InnVision - 11:45 to 1:30

**Sunday, November 18**

ABC Dinner, Fireside Room - TBA

**Sunday, November 25**

Movie, Youth Room - TBA

#### Creek Clean-Up

On Sunday, October 7th eleven youth and three advisors went to Oka Pond to pick up trash. With this big of a group, several trash bags were quickly filled up and we were able to enjoy a beautiful day along the Los Gatos Creek trail.

#### SSP "Splashdown"

You might have noticed in mid September a group of youth having water balloons thrown at them during fellowship hour. If you weren't actually throwing water balloons you might be wondering what was going on. Well, it was the fundraiser for our youth who will be participating in Sierra Service Project next summer. Thanks to our congregations generosity \$312 was earned to go towards this trip.

And what is Sierra Service Project? It is a weeklong trip to work on projects at one of five Native American reservations or an urban community in South Los Angeles. SSP offers a hands-on experience in Christian service. Our high school youth will join other youth in our conference for a week of repairing homes, building faith and building relationships. For more information regarding Sierra Service Project, go to: <http://www.sierraserviceproject.org/>.

Melinda Knepp, Youth Coordinator ❖



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People reaching out, with open minds, souls and hearts -

- Nourishing spirituality
  - Engaging creativity
  - Building social justice
  - Providing loving, welcoming community
- for Christ and the world.







Dear Barbara and Brothers and Sisters at Campbell UMC,  
 Greeting from Cambodia!

Thank you all again for your love gift support to buy Hymnal songs books for our Women and congregations in Cambodia. They are so joyful to receive this special gift. We bought 300 books and we made the stickers to put on each book for remembering in Honor of Ms. Evelyn Buck's 100th birthday.

Please share the pictures of the Cambodian and International Hymnal and Cambodian Methodist Women Training for all women committee from eleven districts on September 18th, 2012.

We are praying for all the best friends like you to have peace, and grace and light and happiness.

Blessings and Peace,  
 Marilyn and Joseph Chan



