



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH, 2015

The Season of Lent

*“Everything has a crack in it;
that’s how the light gets in.”*

Leonard Cohen



Lent, the forty days before Easter, is a season for exercising, with a heightened level of intention, the practices of faith. Not because God demands it of us, but because we need it. We need to remember, from time to time, that we can put

ourselves in a place where grace can happen, a posture that opens us to be dazzled by a moment of spiritual insight.

Lent is that season.



Sundays during Lent
“After the Storm”

We have planned a beautiful season of Lenten worship. Each week will take us a step closer to being a people ready for our own resurrection.

February 22 - Spirituality through the Eyes of a Young Person
CUMC Youth lead worship

March 1 - Who Do You Want to Be?

March 8 - What Happens at the End of the Road?

March 15 - Seeing With New Eyes

March 22 - Do I Have to Choose?

March 29 - Palm Sunday - When Everything Else Is Washed Away

April 5 - Easter

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MARCH 8, 2015

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS
1 HOUR AHEAD**

Campbell Connections

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

The Campbell Connections is mailed
the 3rd Wednesday* of each month.
Deadline to submit an article is 4 p.m.
on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

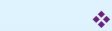
Submit article to Church Office
or e-mail the Editor at:
hreynolds63@gmail.com.

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*If there are 5 Wednesdays in a month
the newsletter will be mailed on the 4th
Wednesday & the deadline for articles will
be on the 2nd Wednesday.

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

❖
**CAMPBELL UMC is a RECONCILING
CONGREGATION**



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR, Kathi McShane
PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY,
Daniel Gbundema
CHOIR DIRECTOR, Jim Groff
ORGANIST, Mary Ann Gee

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHURCH BUSINESS

Barbara Wade
YOUTH COORDINATOR
Melinda Knepp

CAREGIVING COORDINATORS
Claudia Slayman, Ellen Droke
CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada

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



Sunday Worship: 10:00 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

Dear ones—

Lent is upon us. Forty days—roughly a tenth of a year of days, a tithe—our tradition invites us to give more intentionally and more sacrificially for the sake of deepening and increasing our faith.

Here is the traditional "Lenten Bidding," adapted from our United Methodist Book of Worship:

Dear People of God:

The first Christians observed and remembered, with great devotion, the days of Jesus' death and resurrection, and it became the custom of the church that before the Easter celebration, there should be a forty-day season to prepare for this celebration.

During this season people who wanted to become Christians and members of Christ's Church were prepared for baptism.

It was also a time when people who had committed such serious sins that they had separated themselves from their community were reconciled to their brothers and sisters by turning away from their wrongs and by forgiveness.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the love and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ, and of the need we all have to renew our faith.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a symbol that speaks of the uncertainty of human life, and that marks the fact that we all need forgiveness in our lives.

I invite you therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ, to observe a holy Lent;

By examining your life and turning back toward God in the places you have turned away;

By being more constantly in prayer, by fasting to make you more attentive to God, by denying yourself in some way that reminds you of Jesus' sacrifice;

And by reading and meditating on God's Word.

In all our ways, for these next forty days, let us bow before our God, who has created us and who saves us.

Your church is offering a number of ways for you to observe this season in community: with guided daily prayer, in regular, thoughtful worship, by sharing supper with your faith community once a week. Whether you do these practices or something else, I hope you will practice some discipline this Lent. It might not change anything...and then again, it just might.

With blessings and love, Kathi ❖



SCRIP NEWS

Scrip is simply a term that means “substitute money.” Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that allows us to raise money for CUMC by using gift cards, or scrip, to pay for everyday purchases.

Simply purchase gift cards from us and pay face value. We order the gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center for less than face value. We keep the difference, or rebate, and that’s where the fundraising comes from. It’s really that simple!

When you use scrip gift cards instead of cash, checks or credit cards at your favorite retailers, you are fundraising while you shop. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers a huge variety of retailers, including grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations and so much more, so it’s easy to make scrip a part of any shopping routine.

Just by regularly using scrip for weekly purchases, a single family can easily generate \$500 or more annually for CUMC programs.

It’s time to put your shopping dollars to work! Visit www.ShopwithScrip.com to see the complete list of gift cards that we can order.

Janine Peyton ❖

For the Philippines

SUN DRESSES AND BOYS SHORTS

Many thanks to Karen Palmer for 170 little girls’ dresses that she stitched. Thanks also to the following UMW members for their help in making 50 dresses and 12 pairs of little boys’ shorts: Barbara Farone, Lou Woodburycattcott, Janice Payton, Sheri Woodhouse, Sharon Lewis, Heather Reynolds, Bertie Meehan and Dorothy Faul. We will have everything completed by the end of February.

Jane LaPierre ❖

Church Council

The January meeting of the Church Council welcomed new Committee members and approved an operating budget for the year ahead proposed by the Finance Committee. Due to a very successful Stewardship campaign, which resulted in a strong increase in pledges, the 2015 budget allowed additional funds to be allocated to cover essential maintenance, expanded programs and increased apportionment payments. At the Church Council I reminisced about the difficulties of balancing the church budget in previous years. Although we are not flush with funds, we are in a better financial position than during the recession. If the membership works as hard as we did to get through the tough times, we will easily expand our outreach in the good times.

The Church Council was also introduced to a program by Eric Law called “Holy Currencies.” It is a different way of looking at the flow of time, energy, people and funds through the church in order to maximize our efforts for carrying out God’s work. Church leaders will be meeting with other circuit churches over the next six months to learn these additional skills and techniques.

Bruce Hallinan, Church Council ❖



Holy Communion is usually celebrated during morning worship on the first Sunday of each month. We also have Communion at special times during the year.

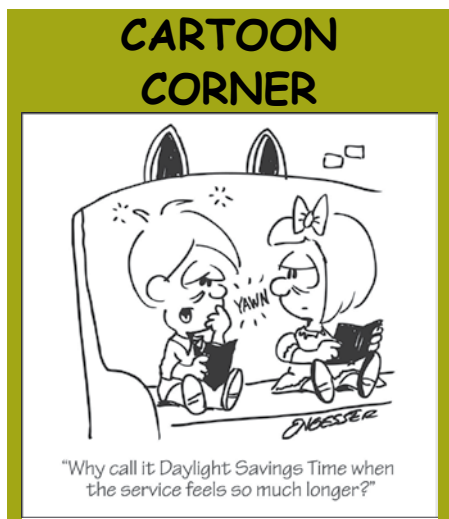
For those who are unable to attend church regularly, this is one aspect of worship that some truly miss. For them taking the Sacrament has been a part of their growing up lives, and now they miss it deeply.

On February 1, Care Giving began a new ministry to those who request taking Holy Communion at home, in hospital, or in care. All the Communion elements are blessed and consecrated during the morning Worship. Little bottles of grape juice graced the Chancel Table along with the usual bread and cup. After service, those planning to take Communion to someone at home gathered bread and an unopened bottle of juice to be used in the next few days. In this ministry we are extending the length of the table to include all those who would partake. Time and distance fall away...there is just one table, one people, and God blesses it all.

Claudia included this line in the Email Prayers dated January 31, 2015. “Please pray that this expanded outreach of the care ministries of Campbell UMC will be a blessing...” I can vouch that it already has been for me.

If you would like to share in Holy Communion at your residence, or want to recommend that someone you know be asked about this ministry, please contact Care Giving Ministries: claudia.slayman@gmail.com; eadroke@aol.com; or call us at the church office (408) 378-3472 x 23.

Ellen Droke, Care Giving Ministries ❖



Circuit Writer



Being Aware of God
Rev. Larry LaPierre

I was asked during my years as a scientist at Polaroid Corporation how I could believe in God and still be a scientist. I shared that I never felt any contradiction. The more that I used the tools of science, the more I was able to “see” the effects of God’s power. Using what is known as a polarizing microscope to examine crystals so small that they needed to be magnified 1000 times filled me with wonder at the beauty that God placed in them.

Thirty five years later I am only dimly aware of some of the recent advances in science, engineering and technology. Still, I marvel that the effects of God’s power are being revealed in the world that we see all around us as well as in distant worlds that we can see only with the help of very powerful instruments. Whether we are examining a galaxy of stars whose light needed four billion years to reach Earth or we’re trying to understand particles whose existence can only be inferred after years of research, it all points to God’s power at work. I realize that is a statement of faith—my faith.

Still, science is not capable of proving that God exists or doesn’t exist. You may not agree. So, how does that which is created prove that the Creator is or is not real? It doesn’t. However, we can choose to take what the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard called a “leap of faith.” We can choose to believe that God is the source of creative power that made and makes life real.

We can still ask “Why” God created the universe. However, this is not the “Why” that has to do with explaining, for example, how silicon conducts electrons when properly treated. Instead, it is the “Why?” that has to do with a “Force” that existed before the so-called “Big Bang” that may have initiated our universe. Of course, God

is much more than the word “Force” implies when it is used in the *Star Wars* movies. We cannot even “see” God much less control God’s power.

So, where do we “find” God? We don’t! God finds us. Yes, there is a lot more to be said, and there are libraries full of capable authors who say it. However, John Wesley, the founder of United Methodism, reminded us that we only know of God because God reveals Godself by giving us “prevenient grace.” Grace is God’s gift of God’s self. “Prevenient” means “that which comes before”—before we can wonder whether God is real.

How do we discover that God is real? It may begin with hearing Bible stories read to us by our mother or grandmother. Perhaps a pastor taught us that God spoke and the world came to be or that God speaks and the world continues to develop. Perhaps we’ve had an encounter with God that was so personal that we could not deny God is real. However it happens; we are all being offered the grace to not only believe that God is real but also to love as God loves. That’s something immeasurably wonderful!

Rev. Larry LaPierre ✦

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

My Life as a Methodist

I was in the fourth grade when I first attended church at the invitation of my best friend and next door neighbor Loretta. Until then, I don’t remember having any contact with religion, the Bible or spirituality in general. Both my parents were good, law-abiding people but church was not one of their priorities. They did not talk about religion and as far as I knew had never read the Bible. It was only many years later, after their deaths in the early 1990s, that I found my mother’s bible, worn and well-read, in which she had underlined many passages and written, in her distinct handwriting, numerous notes in the margins. As I held her bible that day I felt a pang of guilt for being so quick to judge what I perceived as a lack of faith.

At ten years old I began to attend a small non-denomination Christian

fundamentalist church in which I became immersed in its teachings. As the years went by I began to judge and condemn others who did not believe as I did. For me religion was simply black and white: either you followed the admonitions of the church and the literal readings from the Bible or you were condemned to hell.

Upon graduating from high school I enrolled in the Christian college started by that church, graduating in 1962 with a degree in Basic Theology. I had hopes of becoming a preacher but soon found out that women were excluded from this role. In my last semester I began to have doubts about the rigid teachings espoused by the church and their college. I wanted more freedom to learn and expand my understanding of the world and my place in it so I began to read books that the church condemned such as *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Crime and Punishment* and *The Magus*. Upon graduation I not only left this college but the church altogether and it would literally be 32 years before I stepped back into a church. During all those years though, I never stopped believing in God, prayer or reading the Bible. As time went by however, I felt a huge hole in my heart for a spiritual connection, one that was inclusive, not exclusive – one that loved all people not just a selected few.

It was my friend Susan who introduced me to the Methodist church. While driving on Winchester Blvd., we had passed it numerous times over the years but this particular time we saw a large colorful sign that read “All Welcome!” Was it true? Yes it was. I began to attend regularly in the year 2000 and was confirmed in 2001.

I was overwhelmed with the beautiful music, the deep, complex and challenging sermons and thrilled with the Christian educational opportunities. I was especially drawn to the Disciple classes and took all of them in the next few years. Finally, I was invited to teach Disciple and I enthusiastically embraced the challenge. That has been one of the more fulfilling opportunities in which I have participated since becoming a member of this Methodist church. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 became my mantra:

continued on p.5

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

continued from p.4

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching . . . so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient.

I have been blessed to find a spiritual home in which I am comfortable among a group of loving and kind Christians who not only love God but love their neighbor as themselves.

Lenora P. Blouin ❖

United Methodist Women

BOOK REVIEW

STOP HUNGER NOW!

In May we are going to host STOP HUNGER NOW at our church. The UMW library has several books that deal with hunger issues throughout the world.

THE TRUE COST OF LOW PRICES (The Violence of Globalization)

By Vincent A. Gallagher

This book explains the search by global corporations for an ever cheaper labor force and the effects of the unfair structures in place to make this happen. When governments have backed global corporations it has led to riots when food became scarce or food prices rose exponentially overnight. Various governments have used military force to suppress these riots. The book discusses the interconnectedness of poverty, drugs, sexual violence and slavery. It is time to stop being ignorant of the problem of hunger. Please read this book.

Other books dealing with hunger:

A Place at the Table by Chris Seay.

Ending Hunger Now by George McGovern, Bob Dole and Donald Messer

What's So Blessed About Being Poor (Kenya) by Susan Slavin & Coralie Salvadore

Chasing Chaos: Humanitarian Aid in Sierra Leone, Darfur and Haiti by Jessica Alexander

Finding God in a Bag of Groceries (Appalachia) Laura Lapins Willis

Jane LaPierre ❖

UMYF TALKING "LISTEN UP"

Super (Bowl) Party

There was a great turnout for this years Super, Super (Bowl) Party. As always there was a lot of good food. Thank you Larry Griffith, Ken Starr and Ed Chirco for barbecuing the burgers. After the Youth All-Stars were introduced, the SSP Network announcers called the play-by-plays for the big NFC vs AFC Jeopardy game and halftime entertainment. We also enjoyed many great commercials brought to us by our youth.

We would also like to thank everyone who generously contributed to this summer's SSP trip. The ten youth who are participating really appreciate the support.

Melinda Knepp, Youth Coordinator ❖



4th-5th Grade Youth Fellowship

Fun at Laserquest

Our 4-5 th grade youth fellowship had been anticipating going to Laserquest for the ultimate laser tag adventure. Pastor Kathie hopped on board to join in the fun. Well, that made the kids even more excited to go play laser tag with the Pastor. One even said they weren't sure they could shoot a Reverend. With lots of hiding places and two levels of playing area, they quickly learned the game and the game was on. They had a terrific time. All said, they are playing games in this group, but they are also building what could be lifelong friendships.

Patty Henderson ❖

CUMC SNAPSHOTS

An Historical Skip Around Campus



Computer Technology At Work

Pastor Paul Kim encouraged the use of technology to enhance our worship. Thanks to the efforts of some of our tech-savvy members, screens were installed in our Sanctuary. Two large screens face the congregation and two smaller TV monitors face the choir loft. The projection system is located in the

balcony and operated by volunteers. Our thanks go to our talented church members who provide their technical expertise.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖



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Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

March 4, 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.

from
the **Heart**

**Thanks,
Everyone!**

We would like to thank our church family for surrounding us with love after the passing of my brothers in November and December.

The wonderful meals, heartfelt cards, kind words and freely given help with my older brothers' memorial service let us know how much you care. There is no better feeling in such a difficult time.

Thank you again!

Greg, Melinda and Bodie Knepp

Letters expressing sincere thanks were received from the following non-profit agencies:

Heart of the Valley, Services for Seniors, Inc.
for the donation of \$180

Heifer International *for the gift of \$3,045*
CWS Church World Service *for the donation of \$110 through the CWS Best Gift catalog*

Raised from the Alternative Gift Faire:

Family Supportive Housing
for the gift of \$325

EMQ FamiliesFirst *for the donation of \$110*

Your generosity over the Christmas season made a global difference. Thanks to each and every one of you!