

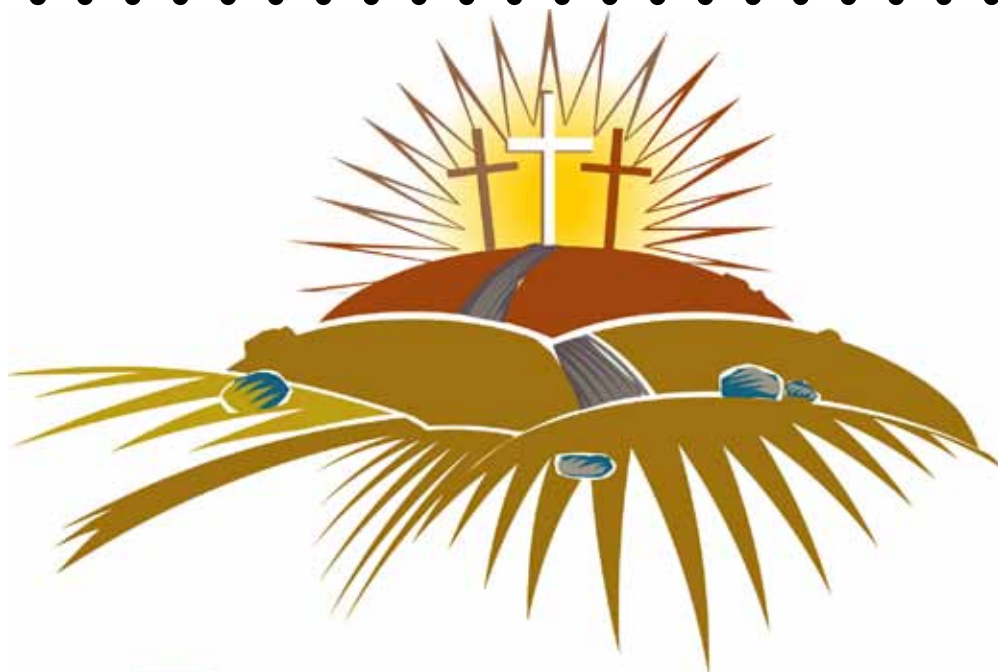
Campbell



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY, 2015



LENT

Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers

Beginning February 25, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Chapel Prayer opportunity

Every weekday (Monday through Friday), beginning Thursday, February 19, at 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The Chapel will be open for 30 minutes of prayer.

Holy Week

We'll have worship opportunities on the evenings of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

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FEBRUARY 18, 2015

*Worship at 7:00 p.m.
in the Chapel*

Campbell Connections

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

The Campbell Connections is mailed
the 3rd Wednesday* of each month.
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on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Submit article to Church Office
or e-mail the Editor at:
hreyolds63@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

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Daniel Gbundema
CHOIR DIRECTOR, Bill Coye
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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

*We just finished a glorious Advent and Christmas and already—
amazingly!—it is time to turn our attention toward Lent, the forty days
before Easter. Like Advent, Lent is a time of preparation for one of our most
significant holy days.*

*While many people think of the traditional disciplines of Lent—like giving
up a particular food or taking on a spiritual practice—as part of the Catholic
tradition, in fact the observance of Lent is part of every Christian tradition,
including our United Methodist one.*

*Even if you've never done it before, I want to invite you to observe a Lenten
discipline this year, so that you can experience Holy Week and Easter more
fully. You can do this in your own individual way, of course, but there is great
value and energy in being part of a common Lenten practice. Here are some
opportunities that Campbell United Methodist Church (CUMC) will offer, that
I hope you will take advantage of:*

***Ash Wednesday, February 18** – Worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel,
including the imposition of ashes. An explanation of Lent especially for
children.*

***Every weekday (Monday through Friday), beginning Thursday, February
19, at 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** – The Chapel will be open for 30 minutes of
prayer. Consider making a more regular prayer practice your own Lenten
discipline, at the beginning or end of your day. Pastor Justin from New
Creation UMC will lead at 6:00 every weekday morning, and Pastor Kathi will
lead at 6:00 every weekday evening. Come as often as you can.*

***Wednesday evening soup suppers, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., beginning February
25** – We will share a simple meal and small group conversation around tables,
ending with communion. The theme of these conversations will be “The
Stories We Know by Heart.” We will tell our own stories as a way of building
authentic community with some folks you may never have spent time with
before. I'm hoping this will be an opportunity to share across generations and
across the wealth of cultural differences we have in this church.*

***Holy Week** – We'll have worship opportunities on the evenings of Maundy
Thursday and Good Friday.*

*I'm looking forward to sharing another important set of CUMC traditions
with you and to living together in the rhythm of our common faith.*

Blessings and love, Kathi ❖



Gathering of Men (GOM)

On Saturday, January 3, eighteen men gathered at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room to feast together on an excellent Strata of egg whites, turkey bacon, turkey sausage and crumbled sourdough. The meal was rounded out with fruit, donuts, juice and coffee. This was our "Tahoe Brunch," named and instituted by past member Bob Powell. It happens once a year in January so if you missed it, better luck next year. Of course we have donuts, bagels, fruit, juice and coffee each month so you won't starve until next January.

After our "healthy" repast, we checked in with each other as to the state of our soul and our body and our relationships. Then we gathered

in small groups to discuss the topic presented by Retired Pastor Larry LaPierre: *What do we find most difficult to believe about God?* In one small group the guys took the Apostles' Creed and identified certain tenants that we recite from memory, which we find troubling or hard to take literally. The whole group regathered to share any "ah ha's" and then we ended the meeting with a prayer circle.

This group is a non-threatening way to get to know other men in the Church in a deeper and mutually supportive manner. If you would like more information about the GOM, call Dave Sargent at (408) 378-1232. Our next meeting will be the first Saturday in February (2/7/2015). Look for the

announcement in the Sunday Bulletin Blue Addendum one week before the first Saturday. Thanks.

Dave Sargent ❖

CRAB FEST IS COMING!



February 21, 2015

Stop by the table during fellowship

hour to purchase tickets, sign up to volunteer or drop off auction prizes.

We need items for our Crab Fest auction! There are many ways you can help. Can you offer a special service or experience (childcare, pet sitting, face painting, themed dinner, tickets to a museum, show or sporting event)?

Are you a baker, artist or craftsman? We would love to have a donation of your homemade items. Do you have a timeshare or vacation home you can donate a 3-night or a week stay?

Did you receive a gift card that you won't use? Please consider donating to your church. Last year our auction brought in \$2600 with 58 items for bid. We doubled our 2013 results!

The more funds we raise, the more we can do for our community and the world.

Questions? Contact Janine Payton at 408-799-9724 or thepaytons@sbcglobal.net. ❖

SCRIP NEWS



You spend a big portion of your monthly budget on groceries for your family. Did you know there's a way to make all that money work for you? By using SCRIP to pay for your regular grocery purchases, you can earn funds for CUMC every time you shop. We have gift cards for **Safeway, Lucky/SaveMart, Whole Foods, Sprouts, Target and Walmart.**

How much can I raise per year?

Grocery Spending	2% Rebate	3% Rebate	4% Rebate
\$100 a week	\$104	\$156	\$208
\$150 a week	\$156	\$234	\$312
\$200 a week	\$208	\$312	\$416

Imagine if 10 people were using Scrip to pay for their groceries!
How about 20, 30, 100 or more?



Stop Hunger Now

Coming to Campbell UMC

Campbell UMC will be hosting a community service project to benefit Stop Hunger Now. Our neighbors throughout Campbell will be invited to participate in this energizing food-packaging event to be held on the church campus this Spring. Church & Society has set an ambitious goal of packing

On the **CAMPUS**

continued from p.3

40,000 meals, which will be sent to the world's most vulnerable. We also have set a goal of raising \$10,000. If you would like to contribute to this cause and help us meet our goals, you may write a check to Campbell UMC and write "Stop Hunger Now" on the memo line. This event will be a great opportunity to introduce Campbell residents and beyond to the works of the church, so stay tuned for more details!

Gail Jacobs, Church & Society ❖

Courtyard Tree

Many thanks to all of you who spoke to me, or sent drawings or suggestions regarding the tree landscaping project. Due to the wide variety of suggestions it is apparent that more thought must be applied before a final plan is adopted. Therefore, a committee representing members has been established and will begin working on the final plan - updates will appear in the newsletter as work progresses - thanks again for your interest and help.



Ray Dyer, Board of Trustees ❖

In the **COMMUNITY**

EWaste4Good

If you received new electronic gifts for Christmas and want to get rid of your old stuff, you can benefit Campbell UMC at the same time! Get rid of your electronic waste safely through EWaste4Good, a local organization that donates the proceeds to non-profits.

Best of all, EWaste4Good will come to you at your home or office! You don't need to haul your e-waste to another site. EWaste4Good also securely shreds and disposes of hard drives and other material that contain personal information.

EWaste4Good accepts the following items:

- Monitors
- Plasma Screens
- LCD Screens
- Computers
- Copiers
- Calculators
- Stereo Systems
- Mouse
- Speakers
- Telephones
- Power Tools
- CRT Screens
- Televisions
- Microwaves
- Laptops
- Faxes
- Computer Cords
- Keyboards
- Cell Phones
- Big Screens
- Printers
- Med. Equip.

To schedule a pickup, go online to www.ewaste4good.com, and make sure to specify Campbell United Methodist Church as the organization to which you are donating. Or call 1-800-317-3112 to schedule a pickup. *Again be sure to specify you are donating to your church.* ❖

Dinner for Homeless

You can join in many ways to help with the dinner for the homeless men at Montgomery Street Inn on **February 27, 2015.**

It is a program that we have been supporting for many years and plan to serve dinners in February, April, June, August, and October. You can help by signing up February 8, 15, and 22, by providing food, help with cooking, transporting the food, or serving the dinner.

Look for the signup table during Coffee Hour! If you have any questions, please contact Lea Adams at 408-293-4562 or e-mail: adamslea@hotmail.com.

Lea Adams, Church & Society ❖

CARTOON CORNER



"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."

CUMC SNAPSHOTS

An Historical Skip Around Campus



The African Fellowship led us in worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 4, for the 10th consecutive year. Pastor Emeritus Richard Corson spoke on "2004: A Promise, A Vision," outlining the history of the African Fellowship at Campbell United Methodist Church. Pastor Kathi followed with "2014: A Promise, A Vision." Printed copies of the sermons are available in the Sanctuary

Narthex. These messages celebrate the journey to the present day and inspire possibilities for the future.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖



2014 Advent Giving was very much appreciated by the following groups: Rosemary School, Montgomery Street Inn homeless shelter, Boccardo Center, and Elmwood Correctional Facility. Your generosity made the holidays brighter for many in our community.

Art & Spirit Ministry for Elmwood

On behalf of CIC Ministries (Elmwood jail chaplains), thank you so much for your generous gifts of sweat pants, sweatshirts, warm coats/jackets, reading glasses, and Bibles. The warm clothes will be much appreciated by the people who are released late on a cold night. The inmates will be so happy to receive reading glasses, especially those who cannot bring their own glasses into the jail. Your compassion and generosity help to show the inmates that they, too, are worthy of God's love. Thank you again for your gifts.

Sue Foyle, Art & Spirit Ministry ❖

Homeless Ministry

Thanks to the generous giving during Advent the following items were delivered to EHC Life Builders Bacardo Family Living Center.

- 120 pairs of socks
- 54 hats
- 21 pairs of gloves
- 10 scarf hats
- 2 rain ponchos

Jane LaPierre, Church & Society ❖

Spreading the JOY

What a fabulous congregation we have. Missions Commission is wowed by your generosity. This December our congregation helped many children have a happy Christmas. We



put out 150 tags on our Giving Tree. The total items contributed is, drum roll please, 235 items which included 1 wagon, 1 spring riding rocking horse and 4 bikes. I truly feel blessed to be a part of such a caring Church who are committed to helping others. Thank you to all.

Missions Commission, Patty Henderson ❖

Alternative Gift Faire

A big "THANK YOU" to all who participated in our 2014 Alternative Gift Faire and Advent Giving! Help and hope for the world was given in a variety of ways:

Alternative Gift Faire

- \$110 – Church World Service
- \$3,045 – Heifer Project
- \$100 – Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley
- \$890 – Habitat for Humanity
- \$325 – Family Supportive Housing
- \$110 – EMQ
- \$20 – Bright Days Scholarship
- \$150 – Sierra Service Project
- \$180 – Heart of the Valley
- \$195 – Second Harvest Food Bank
- \$50 – Missionary support for Joseph & Marilyn Chan
- \$25 – Women's Livelihood Projects in Cambodia
- \$25 – Women's Empowerment & Leadership Projects in Cambodia
- \$25 – Haiti Solar Oven Project
- \$25 – International Disaster Response
- \$250 – Stop Hunger Now
- \$5,525 – GRAND TOTAL

Advent Giving

- \$640 – InnVision
- \$265 – Elmwood Jail Ministries
- \$275 – HomeFirst (formerly EHC)
- \$150 – Rosemary School
- \$1,330 – Grand Total ❖

Thank You Christmas Angels

I want to express my appreciation to those wonderful individuals who came to the church on Saturday,

December 20, and helped "construct" the poinsettia tree in the Narthex. Andrew Reynolds and Greg Catcott put up the metal frame.

Andrew and Heather Reynolds, Ray Dyer and Royce Kropff unpacked, unwrapped and placed 80 plants on the tree for a colorful display of white, pink and red flowers. I also want to thank Barbara Wade for ordering the plants and getting them delivered in time. Thanks so much for your much needed time and talent.

Linda Kropff, Chancel Flowers ❖



Harriet Matturie shared these words with us during the Epiphany Worship Service in early January.

"I am about to do a new thing' God says to us. It is a new year. We have turned the page on the last year. Now we must open our hands to let go of what is finished, so that we can hold the new gifts that God wants to give us."

YES...

Let go of the old, which might be burdens of disappointments, wounds, hurts; so there is room in our lives for the new that is coming, which may be opportunities and joy.

Let go of the past that limits; so that we may embrace that which is coming, which may enrich and strengthen.

When we hold tight to the past, we might not be able to open to the future...

What does this look like in your life?

Ellen Droke, Care Giving Ministries ❖

Circuit Writer



Why is it so hard to agree on the truth?

Rev. Larry LaPierre

I'm always intrigued with signs announcing that "the Truth will make (us) free." (John 8:32 NRSV) I wonder whether the people who put that portion of verse 32 on their signs know the rest of the verse and the one before it: "Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"¹ (Vs. 31-32)

Hundreds of denominations and thousands of independent churches owe their existence to disagreements over what the Truth is. Sadly, even when we try to reconcile our differences over doctrine or church practice, we often harden our positions. It is difficult for some of us to change when we've spent a lifetime believing that our way of living as Christians is the only right way.

There is an even deeper issue. Some of us resist simply because it feels threatening. At some level, perhaps unconsciously, we experience the call to change even a small part of our understanding of God as a criticism or even a condemnation of how we have built our Christian values and lifestyles. It may not occur to us that no denomination, no single independent church and no pastor, bishop or scholar of religion has a corner on the Truth about Jesus Christ.

How can I say that? In part it's based on my experience in seven Christian denominations during my adult life. Each of those denominations taught me something about living as a Christian that I needed to know. Every congregation

understood that God needed to be at the center of what they taught as well as how they lived as disciples of Jesus. Every pastor wanted us to grow closer to God using Scripture, sacraments and the other spiritual gifts that God gives to Christ's Church. But nobody had or has the whole picture. Nor do I. I expect to spend the rest of my life deepening my understanding of God's revelation in Jesus Christ.

The second basis for my claim that no one has all of the Truth comes from the Bible. It's easy to overlook verses 31-32a in our haste to proclaim that "the truth will make you free." If we rush, however, we miss how Jesus connects Truth with Jesus' presence in our lives: "if you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth . . ." (8:31-32a) Discovering Truth that will make us free requires our continued growth as Jesus' disciples.

Why is it so hard to agree on the Truth? Of course, no one wants to admit that we're wrong in our understanding of the doctrines and practices of our Christian faith. We may even overlook the Truth by listening to the voices which insist that Jesus is not the Messiah—a good person, yes, but not the Messiah. If we don't have an ongoing relationship with Jesus as the One whom God sent to be our Savior and show us the way into eternal joy with God, we miss the Truth. It helps to realize that Truth is disclosed to us as we earnestly search for it. Finally, to know the Truth requires that we set aside our willfulness and humbly follow where God leads us as disciples of Jesus.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

¹ New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



God's Library: Heavenly Record Books

In Psalm 139:16 it is written:

"... your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me when none of them as yet existed."

I remember reading this beautiful passage in the first Disciple class I ever took and asking, "What is the book that the Psalmist is talking about?" As a librarian I was fascinated to learn more about this "book" and have since read that some biblical scholars believe the reference is to The Book of Life, also entitled The Book of Destiny. This was a record of deeds that required judgment and a register of those who would have citizenship in heaven.

There are many other references in the Bible to books such as The Book of the Law or The Book of Moses referred to in 1 Kings 22:8-11. It was found by the High Priest Hilkiah: "I have found it in the house of the Lord," he told Moses, "and it contains the great wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book . . ." This is the book that was read by Ezra to the Israelites after the exile and probably contained, according to biblical scholars, much of the Pentateuch.

The Book of the Covenant in Exodus 24:3;7 is regarded by some as the oldest legislation in the Bible, dating to pre-monarchical times. "Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances, and all the people answered . . . 'All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do.'"

Other books mentioned include The Book of Remembrance (Malachi 3:16-18), a record of names and deeds.

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SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

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These “books” were not like the books we have today but most likely were written on scrolls or tablets. It was not until the 2nd century AD that the codex was produced. These were scrolls that were folded and attached at the edges.

In his LXXX sermon John Donne, the 15th century theologian and poet wrote:

“The world is a great volume, and man the Index of that Booke; even in the body of man you may turn to the whole world; the body is an illustration of all Nature . . .”

There are many other books mentioned in the Bible that are unknown or lost, such as The Acts of Solomon (1 Kings 11:41), Chronicles of King David (1 Chronicles 27:24) and The Book of the Law (Joshua 1:8; 8:34).

Lenora P. Blouin ❖

Celebration of Leadership

Pastor Kathi and Nominations Committee invited leadership to a breakfast on January 10, 2015, for the opportunity to thank leaders and committee members. After serving a delicious breakfast provided by members of Nominations, Kathi shared a video from “Ted Talks.”



In the video, Simon Sinek explores how leaders can inspire cooperation, trust and change. He’s the author of the classic “Start With Why;” his latest book is “Leaders Eat Last.” This was followed by conversation around the table, with each table sharing in the larger group. Pastor Kathi asked everyone to discuss the importance of knowing the ‘Why’ about this church.

This leadership celebration was a “first” for CUMC and hopefully not the last. It was well worth the effort of rising early on a Saturday morning. For anyone interested in further exploration of the “Why” concept – read on -

Simon Sinek has discovered some remarkable patterns in how leaders think, act and communicate. He wrote *Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action* to explore his idea of the Golden Circle, what he calls “a naturally occurring pattern, grounded in the biology of human decision making, that explains why we are inspired by some people, leaders, messages and organizations over others.” His newest work explores “circles of safety;” exploring how to enhance feelings of trust and confidence in making bold decisions. It’s the subject of his latest book, *Leaders Eat Last.* ❖

4th-5th Grade Youth Fellowship



What wonderful kids we have in our 4-5th grade youth group. Amy and I feel honored to get to know them.

The youth baked loads of cookies to eat during the singing portion of the Merry Mayhem for all the church. What a spread. In addition, they sold many of those cookies after church. They were busy taking cookie orders, bagging them and gladly taking the money. Way to go Youth ! They raised \$76.

It was decided they would use this as a service project and have donated the money toward our older youth going to Sierra Service Project. They are excited about service projects and look forward to the next one.

Patty Henderson and Amy Peterson ❖



**CUMC takes time
to CELEBRATE!**

We asked people to note their favorite Christmas movies and these are the ones that showed up on the scroll.

In alphabetic order:

- *A Christmas Story*
- *The Christmas Kiss*
- *Frosty the Snowman*
- *It's a Wonderful Life*
- *The Little Drummer Boy*
- *Miracle on 34th Street*
- *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*
- *Polar Express*
- *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*
- *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*
- *Trading Places*
- *White Christmas*

Christmas Eve

This year Marv and Ina Tanner and Gene and Elaine Hill hosted the Christmas Eve pot luck dinner. Ina took the sign ups for the 70 people who decided to come, and she decorated the social hall. It was so festive that it felt just like Christmas when we entered the room. Gene provided a crossword puzzle about our church, a word search for books of the Bible, and a matching game of professions and hymns. Elaine led us in singing grace. It was beautiful hearing the harmonizing during the last verse. Marv made a very good coffee. There was plenty of time and room for visiting as well as eating all of the good foods that the participants provided. Clean-up was completed before the 10 p.m. service; so after singing Silent Night, and participating in communion, we could get in our cars and leisurely drive home.



Thanks to the Hill's for the photos - Elaine reported that they got busy and forgot to take photos with people in them - but we all know it was a festive affair and thank the Tanner's and Hill's for hosting this.

2015 Epiphany Service led by the African Fellowship Followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall

Thanks to Joe Kappia, Roxanne Kohlin and Eugene Hill for the following photos which so eloquently describe the occasion.







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Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

Feb. 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.



On Sunday, February 8, 2015, Pastor Paul will be remembered and we will celebrate his life and ministry during the 10 a.m. Worship Service.

WE WANT YOU!

Would you be willing to share your church community experience with Campbell Connections?

E-mail the Editor at: hreynolds63@gmail.com

by February 4, 2015

and share your story in next month's newsletter.