



Advent, the four weeks in which we wait together for God to be born again at Christmas, begins on Sunday, November 29. It's a season of watching and anticipating, reflecting on the past year, making ourselves ready.

Like last year, Campbell UMC will offer an Advent devotional, delivered daily by email or in printed form on Sunday mornings, with reflections for the coming week.

But this year, we'd like to invite you to write.

We're hoping all 27 entries will be written by members of the congregation.

The theme of our worship during the four Sundays of Advent is Sacred: Life Infused with Holiness. Can you write a brief story of where and how you have found the presence of God -- holiness -- in the middle of your ordinary life? Think of something you have experienced that has taught you something about

*Sacred time*

*Sacred people*

*Sacred space*

Can you write about this experience?

This is an opportunity to offer something of yourself. Even if you have never written for a public audience before, other people will be blessed by what you have to say.

Write no more than 250 words and send it by email to:  
[Advent@campbellunited.org](mailto:Advent@campbellunited.org)  
 or deliver it to the Church Office, attention Pastor Kathi.

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**5:00 pm Children's Pageant**

**9:00 pm Candlelight  
 Christmas Eve Service**

*(note new time)*

## 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 pm 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/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
**MINISTRIES, Mary Ann Gee**

**ADMINISTRATOR OF CHURCH  
BUSINESS**

**Barbara Wade**

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**Melinda Knepp**

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**CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada**

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



Sunday Worship: 10:00 am  
Adult Sunday School: 8:50 am  
Children's Sunday School: 10:15 am  
African Ministry: 11:30 am  
Quiet Communion: 6:00 pm Tuesday

### Bright Days Preschool

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



# Kathi's Pastoral Reflections

*It is -- amazingly -- almost Advent, and then Christmas.*

Again it has rushed toward us. I welcome it and I feel unready for it, all at once.

The theme of our worship during Advent is Sacred: Life Infused with Holiness.

The word "sacred" usually means something dedicated as "holy," or "set apart." But what if everything -- ordinary, not set apart -- also holds the possibility of the holy? What might your Christmas season experience be like if you spent more of each day looking for the traces of holiness that are strewn about everywhere?

I know that the busy-ness of the holiday season can overrun any sense of the sacred. It's ironic: in a season set aside for holiness, we run faster than at almost any other time of the year. Every year I think I might get everything done early and leave time for thoughtful and quiet time at the end. But it never happens; the list of things to do takes up every minute available, every time.

What if we went into this Advent season knowing that will be true again?

What if we committed ourselves to finding the holiness in the work and activities of each day instead of after those things are done?

I think the wisest people are the ones who have learned to do this.

Leon Dufour, a Jesuit theologian and scholar, said to his caregiver, just a year before he died at ninety-nine, "I have written so many books on God, but after all that, what do I really know? I think, in the end, God is the person you're talking to, the one right in front of you."

When the Desert Fathers -- hermits who lived in the fourth century and who focused their whole lives on being more faithful -- lost their hope, they would repeat one word over and over again, as a kind of mantra to re-focus and ground themselves. The word wasn't "Jesus" or "God," or even "Love." The word was "Today." Today is the day that matters. Today -- right here, right now -- is where I need to find the holiness that is everywhere around us.

May you know that your life -- each day, each moment, each person in it -- is sacred: infused with holiness.

With blessings and love, Kathi ❖

# On The Campus

## Fellowship Time (Coffee Hour) Treats

Do you enjoy the variety of treats offered after worship? Do you enjoy visiting with friends and newcomers during Fellowship Time? Then please take the opportunity to continue the hospitality which is offered by contributing a plate of baked goods, fruit, veggies, or cheese & crackers.



Currently a limited number of individuals are providing treats throughout the year. Rather than continuing to overwork those persons, we are asking everyone who comes to Fellowship Time to do their part in providing treats.

Look for the sign-up sheet at Fellowship Hour, or contact Pastor Daniel Gbundema to sign up (pastorgbundema@campbellunited.org). We need at least five (5) people to bring goodies each Sunday OR one person/family to provide cake in celebration of a blessing. ❖

## Alternative Gift Faire

You can still shop at the Alternative Gift Faire. Cards will be available at the Church Office through 12/22/15. Charitable organizations available; i.e., Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity, UMCOR, Heart of the Valley, etc. If you choose to make a contribution, a card representing the charitable organization you have selected will be provided so that you can contact the recipient as to the gift donation you have made in their name.

Joyce Hocker, (408) 268-4646 ❖

## Are You a Young Adult?

Do you know a young adult who would like to be part of doing church in a new way? Two new groups are forming:

- Young adults who will gather and explore spirituality as they create a community garden at an elementary school. Contact Joe Liverseed at joeliverseed@gmail.com
- Beginnings - a new group for parents of young children to support one another and remember to find the holy in everyday life. Contact Milena Lilles at mililles@yahoo.com ❖

## Advent Opportunities to Give



Watch for details in the Addendum on Sunday mornings.

*Alternative Gift Faire* – Sunday, November 22 and following weeks

*Giving Tree*

*Offering opportunities on the four Sundays of Advent to give needed items and funds to:*

Rosemary School

Elmwood Correctional Facility

Downtown Streets Team (*ministries to end homelessness*)

Abdul Miracle Disabled Children's Foundation ❖

## What Kind of a Legacy Will You Leave?

Many of us have thought about making a bequest to our church. This is one way for you to continue your support of the church.

How does one go about this? One relatively simple way is to make a provision in your will or trust for money or property to be transferred from your estate to the church at your passing.

Additional ways to leave a legacy are a Charitable Gift Annuity, a Charitable Remainder Trust, a Charitable Lead Trust, or a Life Estate Reserved. In some situations, this can be done in such a manner that you can receive income and tax advantages for the rest of your life.

For additional information, contact the Endowment Fund Committee through the church office.

George W. Cleveland ❖

## Thank You



Thank you to everyone in the congregation who visited me, prayed for me, sent cards, and took care of me while my wrist was in a cast. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful, caring church family.

Carol Farmer ❖

## A Church In Action

# Teams *and* COMMITTEES



For some years, Campbell UMC has divided responsibility for its service and mission focus among two committees: Church & Society and the Missions Commission. The purpose of both committees was to engage the congregation in service and justice work. One committee focused its work on local partnerships, the other on more global connections.

But sometimes those distinctions are not so clear. Increasingly, we have wanted to find and deepen the commitments to “transformation of the world” that Campbell UMC will be committed to for the long term. So this fall, we have decided to consolidate these two committees into one committee with both a local and global focus.

The new committee is called **The Church In Action**. (“CIA” for short!)

The CIA will create and coordinate opportunities for the whole congregation and community to be in service. It has decided for the coming year (2016) to focus on deepening and expanding the church’s commitment to four ministry areas we have already been engaged in:

- Ministry with inmates at the Elmwood Correctional Facility
- Partnerships with the Rosemary School community
- Food and assistance to homeless persons
- Partnership with communities in West Africa

The CIA has adopted a vision statement to guide all of its work:

### ***Vision Statement – Mission and Service Work at Campbell UMC***

*We are human.*

*We are Christians—followers of Jesus.*

*We are United Methodists.*

*We are members of Campbell United Methodist Church.*

*In every one of these roles, we are compelled to love one another, to be in service to others. We are called not only to do this work, but to be a witness—a community that points not at our own virtue, but toward God’s faithfulness to all people, everywhere, and to God’s particular calling to this community of faith.*

*Our hope is that there will be a distinctiveness about the way we engage in acts of service, generosity, kindness and justice as members of Campbell UMC. Seeking justice and inclusion for all of creation, listening for God’s particular call to us at this time, all of our service and giving projects will be designed, organized and implemented around these practices and values:*

- 1. Giving and serving are spiritual practices. Their purpose is to build and deepen relationships that transform both the giver and the receiver.*
- 2. We are open and ready to be stretched—to give of ourselves beyond the limits of our comfort, convenience and fear.*
- 3. We treasure and seek opportunities to serve inter-generationally, including the youngest and the oldest among us in service that gives meaning to our lives.*
- 4. We will be invitational about opportunities for hands-on engagement, including members and non-members of Campbell UMC, recognizing that wellness for all people includes purposeful work.*
- 5. We will practice a rhythm of action and reflection, allowing intentional space in community for reflecting on the ways God is moving in and through our work.*

Would you like to be more actively engaged in this part of the church’s work? You are needed!

Contact Pastor Kathi at [pastorkathi@campbellunited.org](mailto:pastorkathi@campbellunited.org) ❖



# Methodist Connection

## Care-A-Vaners

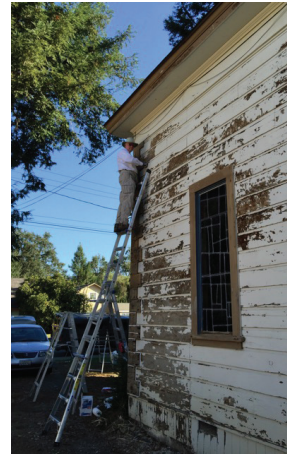
*We Scraped, We Caulked, We Painted, We Did It!*



The Care-A-Vaners' 2015 work season ended on a high note, and not just because we climbed very tall ladders and rode up on a scissors lift. We painted the exterior of the Potter Valley United Methodist Church, and the locals helped us all the way.

Potter Valley is a very small town in Mendocino County, 18 miles north/northwest of Ukiah. The first full week of October, ten Care-A-Vaners camped in the Potter Valley Rodeo

Grounds. Our host church had made arrangements for our stay in the RV section where we had hookups for electricity and water. Even before we arrived, Bill Monlux, a member of PVUMC, prepared the way. The church exterior was power washed; the primer, paint and supplies were purchased; and church members were ready to help. We arrived at the church Monday morning and went to work. The wood walls and the many window frames needed lots of TLC, in the form of scraping, caulking, filling, taping, and priming. By midweek, we were using two paint sprayers, brushes, pads, and rollers to spread cream colored paint on the walls and chocolate brown on the trim. Bill and some local folks helped too. And we were very well fortified with lots of healthy, homemade food. Church members provided five breakfasts, five lunches, coffee, break-time snacks, and a splendid potluck dinner.



At the Thursday night potluck, we had a chance to get to know some of the local folks. Care-A-Vaner Susie (from Auburn) and I talked with Nancy. As a girl, Nancy had spent summers and holidays at her grandmother's farm nearby. She married a boy from Potter Valley, and in 1953 they moved to their dairy farm. Back then, the valley had thirty dairies. However, over time, it became too expensive to ship their product to Petaluma and to pay for hay and feed to be shipped in. Today, some ranchers raise cattle, but most of the farmland has been planted in vineyards. Nancy told us that her husband died three years ago and that she would be moving to a senior residence in Ukiah. She was happy that her grandson and his wife, who are expecting their first child, would be moving onto the family farm, which was now planted in wine grapes.



Potter Valley is the smallest town I have ever stayed in. Main Street has a school, (kindergarten through high school), a fire station, a post office, the Methodist Church, and a Bible Church. Also on Main, across from the Rodeo Grounds, is Hopper's Corner Store (and gas station), a cafe, and Hopper's Saloon. The rest of the town consists of homes. I heard small-town sounds; roosters crowing, birds

singing, crickets chirping, and dogs barking. Main Street is the main thoroughfare through town, but traffic is light. I never heard an airplane or train or siren for a week. On a clear night, the stars were amazing.

Pastor Diane Knox said that the church had recently put on a very successful fundraising event, with a barbecue dinner, a three-piece band, a silent auction, and children's activities. She said that the community supported the event, and that the church has plans in place to increase involvement with the community.

Care-A-Vaners came to Potter Valley from Auburn, Cupertino, Manteca, and Campbell. Gene and Elaine Hill, and Dave and I were the Campbell contingent. I think that we all felt good about helping a small but spirited church keep its light shining.

Susan Sargent ❖



# Congregational Care Ministries

## Thanksgiving and Gratitude

### *For What Am I Grateful? For Whom Do I Give Thanks?*

On All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, we remembered those who have blessed our church community's life. They are those who have gone before us; who loved and mentored, who taught, led, built and inspired. For these legacies, for these strong ones, we are grateful to have received from them blessings and empowerment.

When I sit with some of our senior saints, I am frequently impressed by stories of their lives in action. I've heard from ones who:

- Led a state delegation to a nominating convention;
- Worked in Washington, D.C. when still a teen as a "government girl," helping to staff agencies during worker shortages for the WWII war effort;
- Raised a family during the hard times of deep economic depression;
- Watched the family farm blow away in the Midwest dust bowl;
- Understood and received the gifts of church-family when in deep need;
- Served their country with pride and strength;
- Served their community, especially leading youth;
- Answered a call to a different kind of ministry;
- Questioned her faith, but through her last years found faith strengthened.

Care Ministers are trusted to listen to the murmurings of hearts, to hold a hand, share a prayer. We have been privileged to join with you as you work through a crisis, or a prolonged illness, or loneliness.

If you are feeling a nudge to discuss becoming a Congregational Care Minister, please speak with Pastor Kathi, Claudia Slayman or Ellen Droke.

We would also like to hear from those (or their loved ones and friends) who might want to receive this gift of spiritual friendship from our church.

Ellen Droke, Congregational Care Ministries ❖

## Worship in October



Ojos made by inmates from Elmwood Correctional Facility - displayed in October Worship Service featuring Art & Spirit Ministry, through CIC Ministries



Many, many thanks to my entire church family for making October 18 such a special day for me. I am truly humbled and honored to now be Director of Music Ministries Emeritus!  
Love and shalom  
from Carolyn Pryor

# Campbell UMC Snapshots

## An Historical Skip Around Campus



The Sanctuary underwent a major remodel in 1993. At that time, an usher's room and a cry room were added. This Noah's Ark fabric hangs on the rear wall of the cry room. Besides being a colorful addition to the room, it's also a reminder of Cheryl Olson, a former full time Director of Christian Education at Campbell UMC. Cheryl enjoyed and collected a variety of representations of Noah's ark. Cheryl was a vital part of our church family.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖

## United Methodist Women

### *Sense The Season!*

Advent calls us to experience Christmas with all of our senses -- sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch. Come join the United Methodist Women on Thursday, December 3, 2015, in the Fireside Room, as we experience the miracle of Christmas and sense the season!

General Meeting at 9:30 am

Brunch at 10:30 am

Program at 11:00 am ❖

*Choir,  
Bells and  
more...*

Join us  
Sunday  
December 20<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 PM

*Free Christmas  
Concert*

Campbell United Methodist Church  
1675 Winchester Blvd.  
Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 378-3472  
campbellunited.org







## Circuit Writer Rev. Larry LaPierre

### Humility -- What Does It Require Of Us?

Madeleine L'Engle is familiar to some of us as the author of children's books. However, in *A Circle of Light* she speaks to those of us who might imagine that we have nothing to learn from a writer like her. However, she took on the question of describing humility -- a virtue that I confess I have much to learn about.

She wrote, "The moment that humility becomes self-consciousness, it becomes hubris. One cannot be humble and aware of oneself at the same time."<sup>1</sup> Hubris is probably not a word that we use very often. On the same page she defines it as "pride in the sense of putting oneself in the center of the universe."

I suspect that I am not alone in recognizing that I have put myself in the center of the universe that I inhabit. It happens so easily -- even unconsciously. That's why it is so startling when someone brings our self-centeredness to our attention. I was made aware of this in a not-so-subtle way during my student pastorate. I had preached on a text from Jeremiah. On the way out of church one of the people who had worshipped with us said to me, "That was a very prophetic sermon." I, of course, was pleased to hear what I took to be a compliment, and I thanked him. My moment of self-awareness was shattered very quickly when he responded, "Yes, well remember what they did to the prophets!"

I was embarrassed, of course. I had allowed my need to be recognized

to take the place of thanking God for enabling me to preach and for the person who called me to an awareness of something besides my preaching skill. If I'm in the spotlight, there probably isn't room in my heart for God at that moment.

Is this one of those problems that responds to a quick fix? No! In my experience this is an ongoing struggle. There is a fine line between acknowledging the appreciation of someone else for something we have done and forgetting that it was God who made it possible. It is so easy to cross that line. In fact, the more often we do so, the easier it becomes to put ourselves at the center of our world. Some writers state that pride is the first of the seven deadly sins (pride, anger, lust, slothfulness, greed, gluttony, envy). Perhaps they are right. So many other indulgences seem justified if we are "taking special care of ourselves."

The remedy is painful. It is nothing less than facing how we treat other people and being honest about just how important they and God are to us! If we don't know the answers to questions about how we treat other people and whether we are self-centered, we could ask someone who knows us well. The insight of a pastor might help us to recognize our reluctance to invite God into the center of our lives. A spiritual director might guide us in the process of turning away from what may be an unconscious act of pushing God to the side.

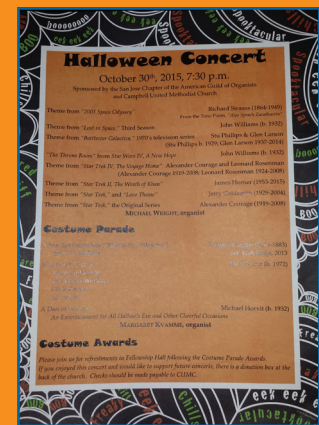
Rev. Larry LaPierre ✚

<sup>1</sup> In Bob Benson and Michael W. Benson, *Disciplines For the Inner Life* (Waco, TX, Word Books, 1985), p. 210.

# Halloween Concert



Halloween Fancy Dress Competition



Performer, Margaret Kvamme





## Christmas Eve Pageant

This Christmas Eve, children have the opportunity to be part of the Christmas pageant in worship and experience the wonder and joy of the story of Christ's birth. We would love to include any child, age 4 and older, who would like to participate. There are both speaking and non-speaking roles and children must attend both rehearsals on both December 20th and 23rd. For more information or to sign up for a role, please contact Kallie Stroh at 408-378-3472 x14 or [kalliestroh@campbellunited.org](mailto:kalliestroh@campbellunited.org).

Kallie Stroh, Children and Family Ministries ❖

You are invited to...

# Merry Mayhem

## An Advent Workshop



Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Break into the holiday spirit with Crafting, Tree Trimming,  
Giving & Caroling.

Please bring an ornament symbolizing Christmas and peace for our church tree, and bring a food item to fill up our donation bins.

Craft for all ages  
Fellowship Hall

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Caroling & Tree Trimming  
Fireside Room

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

For ALL generations: the young and young at heart!

Mailing Date: [November 18, 2015](#)

Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

**December 2, 2015**

***Return Service Requested***

## **Become...**

who God created you to be - fully human, fully alive.

## **Be found...**

in a community where our differences are treasured as glimpses of beauty in the eyes of a creative God.

## **Be unafraid...**

to cross boundaries for the sake of love and justice.

## **From The Heart**



Dear Church Family,

I just wanted to thank all of you for being such a crucial part of my life. The ongoing support during my mom's chemo and funding my staff-in-training trip to Sierra Service Project are just two instances that stand out to me. I hope the youth group is taking care of our church family with every beautiful thing they do. I hope to see you all very soon.

Here in Waco—

I am loving my time here at Baylor University. Adjusting has been difficult, but I've had help. The Christian community here is something I've needed to help me thrive; however, I've been struggling to find it. I go to church at Church

Under the Bridge, and I guarantee if you go to service there you'll leave moved. A couple of Sundays ago, I helped lead the worship (music) part of the service! I also have been going to help lead a Bible study at My Brother's Keeper, a homeless shelter. Last week, I met a man who prayed for me instead of me praying for him (like we were instructed). He kept reminding me that God's plan for me is there, and that I am special in every way, shape and form. He is one of the few people here I feel really believe in me. I saw him at church this past Sunday, and I have never felt happier.

Anyway, words of encouragement, letters, care packages and love are always appreciated.

Love and grace always, Jordan Aspiras

*Mailing address for Jordan is: Baylor University, One Bear Place #8112, Waco, TX 76702*