

Campbell



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY, 2014

Earth Stewards

Hearing Mother Earth Through A Child's Words

At the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, a 12-year-old girl from Canada named Severn Suzuki addressed the plenary session. Here's an excerpt of her speech:

"Hello, I'm Severn Suzuki, speaking for ECO – the Environmental Children's Organization. We are a group of 12 and 13 year olds trying to make a difference: Vanessa Suttie, Morgan Geisler, Michelle Quigg, and me. We raised all the money to come here 5000 miles to tell you adults you must change your ways.

Coming up here today, I have no hidden agenda. I am fighting for my future. Losing my future is not like losing an election or a few points on the stock market. I am here to speak for all generations to come... And now we hear of animals and plants going extinct every day – vanishing forever.

In my life, I have dreamt of seeing the great herds of wild animals, jungles and rain forests full of birds and butterflies, but now I wonder if they will even exist for my children to see. Did you have to worry about those things when you were my age? All this happening before our eyes and yet we act as if we have all the time we want and all the solutions. I am only a child and I don't have all the solutions, but I want you to realize, neither do you... If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it!...

...Do not forget why you're attending these conferences, who you're doing this for – we are your own children. You are deciding what kind of world we are growing up in. Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying, "Everything's going to be all right," "It's not the end of the world," and "We're doing the best we can." But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of priorities?

My dad always says, "You are what you do, and not what you say." Well, what you do makes me cry at night. You grown-ups say you love us, but I challenge you. Please make your actions reflect your words. Thank you."

How will we respond to Mother Earth and to Severn? As people of faith called to care for all creation, what are we going to do? What is God asking of us – through the words of this young child and Mother Earth? Let us listen, and then make our actions reflect our words, our confessions and our faith. ❖

(Google Severn Suzuki to hear her speech as well as her review 20 years later)

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Campbell Connections

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

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CAMPBELL UMC is a RECONCILING CONGREGATION

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PASTOR FOR AFRICAN MINISTRY, Daniel Gbundema
CHOIR DIRECTOR, Bill Coye
ORGANIST, Mary Ann Gee

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHURCH BUSINESS

Barbara Wade
FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR Julie Lattin
VOLUNTEER YOUTH COORDINATOR Melinda Knepp
CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada

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

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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.
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 Pen

A Vision for 2014: Now Spirituality

My Vision for Campbell UMC in 2014 is "Now Spirituality:" It is a call to live by faith every day - where we live, work, play and serve – making a difference in our relationships, our families, our communities and our planet Earth. Jesus said, "I came so you can have a real and eternal life, and a better life than you ever dreamed of" (John 10:10, The Message) - now, today, every day. A life-enriching, life-protecting, life-multiplying faith. Dare we ask for such a faith? (Luke 11:13)

The Goal is to become the most loving place in town. How would it affect the way we do church, relate to each other, serve the poor, or reach out to unchurched neighbors? Are we there yet? If not, why not? What steps would we need to take as individuals and as a community to make this possible? Let's Rethink Church!

We will focus on four issues in 2014.

- 1. Earth Ministry:** Embracing our calling as stewards and lovers of God's natural world, we will seek to become a Green Church and take steps to leave a life-abundant world for the coming generations. We will work to make meaningful changes in how we live each day as we commit to caring for all creation. We will take first steps during Lent Season to develop this new ministry focus.
- 2. Now Spirituality:** Following Jesus means to live in daily communion with God. How can our church become a spiritual powerhouse for people seeking to experience God's presence and power in their personal and social lives? How will we become a house of prayer for all people? We will make available the following opportunities to nurture Now Spirituality: Prayer retreats and prayer groups, 3-person Life Transforming Groups (LTGs), and Kaleidoscope Bible Study groups.
- 3. Agape Meals:** We will intentionally gather for Agape (ah-gah-pay: Bible word for love) meals, one of the oldest Christian traditions. Like the first followers who met in homes to talk about Jesus and how He impacts their lives, at Agape meals we will eat together, sharing our lives. A Hospitality Team will help coordinate these meal opportunities (at church, at homes; potluck, catered or picnics) as well as enhance our weekly Fellowship Time experience after worship.
- 4. Making Disciples:** "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life... Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day..." (Matthew 28:18-19, The Message) As followers of Jesus, we will engage in the intentional work of making disciples so they too can experience abundant life with us. We will learn how to make disciples, how to talk about spiritual things and to reach out to new generations.

Let's keep our eyes wide open so we can see all the wonders God has in store for us this year. Let's work to become the most loving place in town – so God through us can impact our world, its peoples and our planet Earth in ways unimaginable! Come, Holy Spirit, come! Renew us and our world!

Pastor Paul





On the **CAMPUS**

Way To Go!

The Missions Commission would like to thank you for helping make this year's Giving Tree such a huge success. We selected Salvation Army's Giving Tree program, which ended up being a great organization to work with. Our basic task was to help provide gifts to those children who don't have the means to have a nice Christmas. And that is surely what we did. As a community service project, Nathaniel helped hang the tags on the giving tree. We hung 150 tags and all but 13 were collected. We thought that was a great accomplishment. To our surprise when the Salvation Army came to pick them up, we found we had donated 220 individual gifts. The truck they brought to pack them in



was stuffed. Wow, what awesome things we can do as a collective group. I am proud to be a part of a caring church community that

helped support others outside our own church. Thank you for all your donations.

Patty Henderson ❖

Dear Campbell Methodist Church, On behalf of The Salvation Army, Santa Clara County, I would like to say, "Thank You" for your help during the 2013 Holiday Season. With your generosity this year, The Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree Program was able to assist over 1,298 households with a total of 5,746 members, and of those, 3,017 children received toys.

Food For Friends collected 4,014 pounds of food which provided families with a Christmas box along with a donation of a turkey for their Christmas meal. Without your support, The Salvation Army couldn't reach those in

need of a helping hand up. Thank you again for sponsoring us and giving of your time.

*God bless you in the New Year.
Sincerely,
Mary Ann Guhl
Angel Giving Tree Coordinator*

Help Feed the Homeless

CHURCH AND SOCIETY will be organizing dinners for 50 - 70 homeless persons at InnVision's Julian Street Inn the third Sunday of the even months (February, April, June, August and October). Sign-ups for February 16 will be available January 19 and February 2 and 9. Please stop by the sign-up table following the church service to see how you can help Campbell UMC feed the homeless. There will be opportunities for cooking, providing supplies, serving, etc. If you have any questions, please call Lea Adams, 408-293-4562, or Jane LaPierre, 408-558-4831. ❖



Knitters, Crocheters & Quilters Needed

Thank you to those of you who have already made baby blankets and prayer shawls for the United Methodist Women's Assembly that will happen in April 2014. These shawls and blankets will be on display at Assembly and then distributed to families and individuals in need following the event.

It's not too late if you are interested in making a shawl or blanket. There is no required pattern to follow. Suggested (but not mandatory) sizes are:

- Prayer shawl triangle - 65 inches long and 32 inch center back.
- Prayer shawl rectangle - 19 inches by 69 inches or 14 inch by 70 inches.
- Baby blankets - 30 inches by 30

inches, 32 inches by 32 inches, 3 inches by 35 inches and/or 38 inches by 38 inches.

Blankets and shawls need to be delivered to Melinda Knepp by February 16, 2014. ❖

Chinese New Year Lunch

New Creation United Methodist Church (UMC) invites you to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

On Sunday, **January 26**, after the 10:00 a.m. worship, New Creation UMC will provide a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Chinese New Year with Campbell UMC as a token of appreciation for graciously hosting New Creation UMC. We have a lot to give thanks for and want to share our blessings with one another. *Come join our celebration.*

Pastor Justin, New Creation UMC ❖

New Member Class

Come join our New Members Class, *Starting the Journey*. You will learn what it means to join the journey of faith with us as we seek to love God, to grow together and to serve others. The New Members Class will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, in the Fireside Room, beginning with a luncheon. New Members will be received and recognized at the 10 a.m. service on **February 16**. Please e-mail the office or call 408-378-3472 for more information and to request the New Member Registration Form. You can also pick it up on the Welcome Table in the Narthex of the church.

You can become a new member in three ways: 1) By Profession of Faith (for those who've never been a member of a church before); 2) By Re-Affirmation of Faith (for those who've been a member of a church but a letter of transfer is not available); 3) By Certificate of Transfer (transfer from another church).

Other dates for New Member Classes in 2014 are: 3/16 (Sun) 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 5/31 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 8/17 (Sun) 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 10/25 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Flower Dedications

The Flower Steward Committee members enjoy doing arrangements



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of fresh flowers on the table at the center of the Chancel. Ideally we have a dedication and a fresh bouquet every Sunday.

In order to do this, we need to have donations to cover the cost of flowers and other necessary supplies.

During Advent we had a wreath and candles on the table so we didn't need the fresh flowers. Now, at the beginning of the year, we would like to be doing new arrangements for each Sunday but we have no requests or donations. I would like to ask the congregation members to consider a \$50.00 donation to honor or remember someone or a special occasion. The arrangement is available for you to take home or to go to a shut-in after the service. A dedication will be noted in the blue addendum on Sunday morning.

There are flower request forms available in the church office or you can call Barbara Wade and mail a check or bring it to the office

Thank you for your consideration.
Linda Kropff, Flower Steward Chair ❖

Estate Planning

Estate planning is essential to the health of a family. Organizing and preparing for changes in our lives minimize the conflicts and confusion in the life of a family. One of the best ways to help our families is to see that our parents have a will or living trust. Sometimes life changes fast and it is difficult to take care of these needs because the family member does not remember what they have done or where they might have placed important documents. To start the evaluation process, you should do the following:

Make a list of all the important papers that will be needed in the future. Assemble these documents in one place. Make sure that the documents are in a secured place. Let members of the family know where the documents are.

Working this through with the family now will save a lot of problems at a later date.

The Endowment Committee ❖



Let Valentine's Day Be Your Kindness Day



February is the perfect time to reach out to others with kindness. Random acts work; so does intentional kindness. Within your family, leave little love notes in unexpected places; a small, thoughtful gift - flowers or a blooming plant might be lovely; or calls and e-mails to extended family to remember them.

On Valentine's Day or week there are many opportunities to show your love and care. Think of a neighbor, senior relative or church member who might be lonely and who would appreciate an unexpected greeting from you. Send a card; invite them to a meal, or bring a picnic or a sweet treat to a home bound person. Your company will bring cheer and the special event will be invaluable as a reminder of your concern and care. Your visit may make their day, and your heart will be warm, too.

Ellen Droke
Care Giving Ministries ❖

Campbell United Methodist Church 125th Anniversary Sharing

What does Campbell United Methodist Church (CUMC) mean to me and my family?

My name is Amy Peterson and I'm here to represent my family; my husband Chad, daughter Ella (10 years old), and son Jacob (8 years old).

I asked each of my children this morning to tell me what CUMC means to them. My daughter told me that she likes how everyone is always smiling and my son said it's fun.

For me, CUMC is where I come to be inspired, to be centered, and to have a sense of community.

Ten years ago my husband and I joined CUMC as a "young couple." I had been coming as a visitor and knew this was the church I wanted to be a part of from the first time I visited. CUMC reminded me of my church back home in Wisconsin. We were expecting our first baby and so with no local family (my husband is also from Wisconsin), we wanted to make sure our baby girl had a place to be baptized and to grow up with a sense of community that had our values. Growing up Methodist has always been something I've been proud of because to me it means being someone who is accepting of everyone no matter where they come from, who they are, or what they do. I wanted my children to have those same values, and I felt it here with the first person who said hello to me and welcomed me.

Since then I've been involved with a number of groups and currently serve on the Children's Ministry Council and co-lead the 4th and 5th grade youth fellowship. This involvement has allowed me to meet so many wonderful people who have inspired me with their vision and dedication. I also realize there are many people who I haven't yet met, and I look forward to meeting all of you in the next 10 years.

What do I see in the future for CUMC?

While I was attracted to CUMC for its traditional feel, I also believe we are a community that isn't afraid to change when it means being more accepting and helping more people. With this healthy mix of tradition and vision, I believe our future is bright. ❖

COMING SOON!



MARCH 1, 2014 AT 5:30 P.M.

All-you-can-eat crab, salad, pasta, sourdough bread and delicious dessert. Silent auction • Costume contest • Live entertainment by Westmont High School Jazz Band • \$45 per person, \$10 per child (12 and under).

This event will be held at Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell in the Fellowship Hall.

Put this date on your calendar. This will be the second annual Crab Feed and last year was a huge hit!

Do not miss this fund-raiser for Campbell United Methodist Church. Sign-up to help during Sunday Fellowship time.

In the COMMUNITY

Elmwood Exhibit Transformation: Art From Within



On Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, the exhibit "Transformation: Art From Within" from Elmwood Correctional Facility was reopened at the Santa Clara County Government building at 70 W. Hedding. The art is hung directly outside the chambers to the Board of Supervisors, the District Attorney, the Public Defender and other county executives, in the breezeway of the County Administration building. Hours will be **8-5 weekdays until February 14, 2014.**

The exhibit displays the work done by Elmwood inmates over the past two years with the Art & Spirit Ministry team at Campbell UMC. These creative and meaningful works are able to be viewed for a month, so please take this opportunity to view the exhibit which is sponsored by Supervisor Ken Yeager and Sheriff Laurie Smith. ❖

Let's Volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank



We will be able to bring a small group to Second Harvest to help pack food

on Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The location will be their warehouse on No. First Street in San Jose. If you'd like to volunteer or have questions, please e-mail Gail Jacobs at gailj_2000@yahoo.com. Watch for the sign-up sheet at upcoming coffee hours!

Thanks to all of you who help fill our food barrel for Second Harvest. An overflowing barrel is a beautiful site! The barrel has been replaced, so don't forget to bring your food donations to the church. Thank you for helping feed the hungry in Santa Clara County!

Gail Jacobs, Church & Society ❖

HISTORY HELPERS

"snippets from our past"

125th Anniversary Sanctuary Panels - Tell the Story

Eight panels, symbolizing 125 years of our church history, currently hang on the side walls in the Sanctuary. The "1950s" panel shows the footprint of the Fellowship Hall, Office Building, and Education Building above the words "3 acre Winchester site."

During the 1950's, Campbell was growing and the church grew with it. The Reverend Herbert W. Neale and his family came to Campbell Church in 1951. Eulah Blaine, in the history of our first hundred years, wrote that church school attendance had increased to the point that classes were being held "in every conceivable nook of the church and parsonage." In 1952, the Building Committee began the search for a suitable site, which was purchased in 1953. Plans for the first unit (Fellowship Hall and Office Building) were accepted in July 1954. "It was necessary to continue using Sunday School rooms at the old church until the education unit could be completed at a later date." The ground breaking ceremony was held in September 1954, and the Consecration Service for the Fellowship Hall complex was held in May 1956.

In February 1957, plans for the Education Building were accepted, and that building was completed in 1958. "At last we had adequate space, in a learning atmosphere, for all of our Sunday School classes." ❖



Circuit Writer



Escaping From Egypt

Rev. Larry LaPierre

Some stories are worth hearing again and again. One of them is the Exodus. It's the story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt well over a thousand years before Jesus. At the beginning of the story the Israelites had gone there as guests of the king of ancient Egypt. With time they were treated less as guests until they were, in fact, slaves. God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to a land that would be so wonderful that it would seem as if it were flowing with milk and honey. Moses had great difficulty convincing Pharaoh to let God's people go. The story ends well for the Israelites but not for the Egyptian army or the Egyptian people.

So, why tell a story which is so full of suffering? Quite simply we all know that life does not usually come with an assured "happily ever after" ending. Sometimes it doesn't even have a good beginning or a happy middle part of the story. Worse yet, some of us have no one to trust with the story of our suffering. We need stories about God working to free people from suffering so that we know that God cares about what we endure.

One way to understand the importance of the story of the Exodus is in its message that God remained faithful to the people of Israel. It reminds us that God will be faithful to us and rescue us from those times and places when we are "slaves in Egypt."

Does it sound a little strange to think of ourselves as "slaves in Egypt?" Perhaps it will make more sense if we think less in terms of geography and more in light of the social, psychological and spiritual forces that can enslave us. Our older son is an addiction therapist. When people are ready to escape the enslavement of alcohol, street drugs, stolen drugs or

excessive amounts of food he is ready to work with them.

However, some of us are enslaved in ways that don't involve swallowing, snorting or injecting a substance into our bodies. There is addiction to behaviors such as violence, gambling, compulsive sex or even overwork. The first three involve excitement.

Workaholism, however, is different. We live to work, and I say "we" because I was a workaholic. The reasons are complex, but they usually have roots in a dysfunctional set of values—often learned at home. We may have learned that we had to work to the point of exhaustion to demonstrate that we care enough to give our "all" for the good of our family or whoever we've decided needs all that we can give and more.

Where is Moses when we need him? Actually, God sent someone far more able to help us than Moses. Jesus Christ can and will help us to escape whatever our "Egypt" is. It involves trusting God more than many of us ever have. We get to decide whether we are going to leave "Egypt." That's a lot more than some of us think is possible. If so, we've allowed our "enslavement" to take God's place at the center of our lives.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ♦

Pastor Paul's Sermon Titles February/March 2014

Theme: Praying Like Jesus - How to Move Mountains

Jesus was a man of prayer – a person who was in constant contact with God. He once said that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed – a grain of sand – then we can say to this mountain, "Move over to the other side of the valley" and it would move. Luke 11:9-13 says there is no excuse. "Ask and you'll get; Seek and you'll find; Knock and the door will open. Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need."

So the question remains, why is our prayer so weak? Can we not muster up a faith the size of a mustard seed? We know that faith is also a gift of God. So, if we ask, seek and knock, would God give us at least such a small gift? So let's put some backbone into our prayer – and return to the basics. Can we really pray like Jesus? Jesus seemed to think so! Can we really move mountains? Jesus was certain we could! So let's pray like Jesus and start moving mountains!

1. Feb. 2: Matthew 6:5-8 - Silence, the Language of Prayer
2. Feb. 9: Matthew 6:9-13 - God-centered Prayer
3. Feb.. 16: Luke 11:5-13 – The Only Prayer Taught by Jesus: Petitionary Prayer
4. Feb.. 23: Matthew 21:18-22 – First Law of Prayer - Faith
5. Mar. 2: Matthew 5:23-25 – Second Law of Prayer - Forgiveness
6. Mar. 9: Matthew 7:7-11, Amos 7:1-6 – Does Prayer Change God's Mind?



CARTOON CORNER





Grateful Heart

I want to take this opportunity to thank my church family for all they have done for me (and are continuing to do) during my illness. As many of you know I was diagnosed with cancer last September and since then have undergone a rigorous program of treatment at the Stanford Cancer Clinic. The doctors told me that with this radical treatment my chances of beating this cancer were very good; "it is one of the most curable cancers" they said.

On December 4th I completed six weeks of radiation and chemo and since then have been slowly recovering my strength back. It's a long process but the doctors assure me that I'm on the right course for healing. Last Thursday I had a follow-up CT scan and preliminary results show no tumor or cancer cells present. That is blessed news indeed. I will have the definitive answer on Friday January 10th when I visit my doctors.

Throughout all this experience God has been with me in ways I never expected or anticipated. When the pain and discomfort came, God eased it and gave me a sense of peace. When my guard was down and I felt lonely and fearful, God lifted those negative feelings and replaced them with a sense of protection and love. There is no doubt in my mind that prayers, yours, mine and others were instrumental in taking me through this experience. I received literally loads of "get well" cards, Christmas cards with messages of get well and healing, phone calls from you and others wishing me a successful recovery, offers to help with shopping, cleaning and rides. I had no idea that so many of you cared and continued your prayers, well wishes and assistance. You were literally God's hands and feet for me.

My first visit back to the church was for the 8:00 PM Christmas service. I

Souper Bowl Sunday



up to Northern California at the end of June to work on a Native American Reservation for a week. Help to support this amazing group by bringing your spare change (or bills) on February 2. There will be youth with soup pots collecting your donations.

For more information about SSP you can go to <http://www.sierraserviceproject.org/>. Or better yet, find a youth who has participated before and ask them about their experience!

Melinda Knepp, Youth Coordinator ❖

hadn't been in church since mid-August and I missed going so that service was especially meaningful. I have since attended a regular church service and even went to the Bible Study Group which meets on Tuesday morning. I'm slowly getting back to those things I love, albeit with caution.

Although this was a difficult journey at times I learned so much along the way. I realized that there are so many other people out there who are struggling with this disease and are undergoing more difficult treatments with less hope for a recovery than I. I met doctors, nurses, technicians and other medical staff who truly cared for me and showed such great compassion. I felt God had paved the way through every step of this process.

So I say "thank you" which doesn't seem like enough but is said with humility and gratefulness.

With love, Lenora P. Blouin

It's that time again. The Super Bowl is right around the corner (February 2). And that means that United Methodist Youth Fellowship's annual "Souper" Bowl Tailgate party is too! This is an all-church event. There will be fun, food and games. You won't want to miss it, so look for more details in an upcoming Sunday addendum.

This will also be a fund-raiser for our youth who are participating in Sierra Service Project this summer. There are thirteen youth and three adult advisors who will be heading



Thank you all for the beautiful cards and kind wishes I received for my 90th birthday.

I was so surprised and pleased.

Thank you!

Alice McChesney



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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.

Many thanks to the African Fellowship for leading a memorable Epiphany Worship Service on January 5, 2014. Here are some moments captured by John Lansana.

