

Campbell



CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2015

Olah To Retire After Seven Years As District Superintendent

The Rev. Kristie L. Olah, District Superintendent for the El Camino Real District and Dean of the Cabinet, is to retire on September 1, 2015. Her retirement was recognized at this year's Annual Conference Session.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. said, "Kristie has given outstanding leadership as a District Superintendent and as Dean of the Cabinet. She has led the development of the El Camino Real District." He added, "Under her leadership, numerous new congregations and new language ministries have been developed."

Olah began serving as a District Superintendent under Bishop Beverly J. Shamana in July of 2008 in the former San Jose District. As the annual conference restructured and new districts were formed, Olah became the first District Superintendent of the El Camino Real District.

Olah says, "I have felt deeply called into the ministry of superintendency."

Olah says there are joys and challenges in supervising the 88 diverse congregations that make up the El Camino Real District. "I am passionate about helping each faith community, in its own unique context, to prayerfully seek out and live God's call to be disciples and invited others into a life of grace and hope through Jesus Christ," she said.

Olah says she has been inspired and honored to serve with an excellent Cabinet team of superintendents and with Bishop Brown. "I love the relationships I have built with them and with leaders and pastors in so many churches. What a blessing to serve among them all. They have called me deep into my own faith," she added.

"As I enter the retired relationship, I look forward to continuing to serve in ministry as a volunteer, especially in the areas of leadership development, discipleship, and consulting with local churches.

Prior to serving as a District Superintendent, Olah pastored St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Palo Alto, was Minister of Discipleship at Los Altos United Methodist Church, and Senior Pastor of the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church in Cupertino.

Olah, who was born in New Jersey and raised in La Crosse, Wisconsin, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley.

She is a lifelong Methodist and was an active layperson for nearly 20 years before answering a call to ordained ministry. ❖

(Reprinted from www.cnumc.org)

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DO SOMETHING TODAY

THAT YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU FOR

MAKE A FRESH START
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - 10 A.M.

Campbell Connections

A monthly publication of
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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, Jim Groff
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Mary Ann Gee

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHURCH BUSINESS
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CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES
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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

Every July, I go into retreat—if not literally, then at least in my head—to focus on my preaching in the coming year. In all the years I've been a pastor, I have always mapped out my sermons at least six months in advance, with a topic, the Scriptural text, and a title (which means I frequently get to the week before the sermon and say to myself "I wonder what I was thinking when I made up that title!").

My sermon planning retreat time always starts with reading lots of books. This year I started with a book that got me thinking about what kind of sermons might be most valuable if the goal of preaching—and maybe of worship itself—is to help us look for God, signs of holiness, in the rest of our lives: our work, our families, our play, our politics, our finances. We can be quite intentional about pursuing our spiritual lives and values at church and still act as though some parts of our lives are walled off, completely untouched by what we are learning. Mostly, I think we do this without even thinking about it. I can focus every day in my devotional reading and prayer on the Bible's repeated command "Do not be afraid," and never make the connection when my child is sick or I'm thinking about financial planning for my retirement.

I think what keeps us from making those connections is not that we don't know enough about the Bible, but that we haven't practiced taking into situations that *don't feel* biblical what we *do* know about who God is and what God asks of us.

So I'm going to try something new this fall. I'm going to try preaching as though the text of God's speech to us is what happens in our lives, every day. As though every week, God is revealing holiness to us and inviting us to respond as if we had a Jesus gene inside of us. Each week I'll take a situation from the newspaper or our community or our life together and ask, "Where is God in this?" and "What is the wisdom that our faith tradition offers for this circumstance?"

Do you have a situation in your life that feels stubbornly resistant to sacredness? I'd love to hear about it. Let's talk.

Fall is a good time to *make a fresh start*.

Blessings as we begin again.

Kathi ❖



Thank You

Thanks to everyone who ordered DVDs & Blu-rays of the Children's Musical and Bell concert this year! We were able to raise \$620 towards the church's new camera fund. We'll one day be able to share our message for the world. If you would still like to order a DVD or Blu-ray, contact Mark Shepherd at mark@legacyfilmsandmedia.com." ❖



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study and Discussion Group continues to meet every Tuesday in the Fireside Room from 10-11:30 a.m. We use the book, *A Guide to Prayer For All Who Walk With God*, as our study guide. Each week is an independent discussion so feel free to join us anytime. For further information contact Jane LaPierre at cirrider@att.net or Brenda Schirle at Schirle9238@yahoo.com. ❖

Joyful Notes Choir Is Starting!



If you like to sing and have fun, then come and join the Joyful Notes Choir on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 at the church.

The Joyful Notes Choir is open to all children, ages K-8th grade. Throughout the year we will prepare music to sing in worship, play games, have seasonal parties, and, in the beginning of May, we will present the children's musical!

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 9th at 4:00 on the second

floor of the Admin/Music Building. A snack is served by the playground from 3:45-4:00 each week.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Mrs. Groff, Director, Joyful Notes Choir at 408-395-9215, or dcgroff@yahoo.com ❖



Summer is almost over and school is back in session! Before you send those kids back to school, get your scrip and be sure they're ready with new clothes, supplies, and everything else a student needs.

JCPenney, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Kohl's, Target, Old Navy, T.J. Maxx, L.L.Bean, Macy's, Walmart, Crazy 8, Gap, Amazon.com

And much more.....

Janine Peyton ❖

In the COMMUNITY



EXHIBITION

September 12, 2015- November 1, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION

September 13, 2015 2-4 p.m.

Community created art from inmates
Elmwood Correctional Facility

CIC Ministries
Art and Spirit

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles
520 South First Street, San Jose
www.sjqmiltmuseum.org

CARE GIVING MINISTRIES



The outreach ministry of Congregational Care is for those who may be homebound, in care facilities, or experiencing a special need for a short time.

A Congregational Care Friend is someone who will meet and walk with you through a challenging time, such as when you may be facing a medical diagnosis or have experienced a broken relationship.

A Congregational Care Friend will sit quietly and listen when you might feel you are wandering a bit in your faith and would like someone with whom you can share your doubts and concerns, someone who could understand and not judge you.

Congregational Care Ministers are not trained Spiritual Directors or Guides but are good listeners. The Care Ministry team serves under the direction and supervision of Pastor Kathi McShane, who offers continuing education and training for Campbell's Lay Care Givers.

To know more about opportunities to serve or to ask to receive care, please call Claudia Slayman at (408) 460-3913 or Ellen Droke at (408) 241-4055 or Pastor Kathi McShane at (408) 332-2280

Ellen Droke ❖

Circuit Writer



And Who Is My Neighbor?

Rev. Larry LaPierre

Every day I face the question that the teacher of the law asked Jesus in Luke 10. Like the legal expert, I want to know, "And who is my neighbor?" The answer unfolds in the story we know as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan."

It's a little more difficult to understand than it seems. The challenge is to accept that God needs us to be a "neighbor" to people that we may not recognize as our neighbor. Typically, it's because they are somehow different from us. What makes them different? Oh, it's the usual list: skin color, sex, amount of education, wealth, religious beliefs, place of birth, etc.

Why is it so hard to accept others as neighbors? Often it's because we learned that someone who is different is dangerous. Or we learned that someone who is different is unacceptable. We don't always learn that God loves every person.

Our younger son shared a story about someone offering to be a neighbor to him when he was in college. A man about his age approached him one night as he was walking back to his apartment. Because our son was dressed in clothes that were obviously from a second hand store, he asked Mark if he was homeless like him. Mark replied that he had a place to live. The other young man had offered to give our son one of the two sandwiches he had received from an outreach program. He treated our son as someone who might be a neighbor in need.

I learned about another view of who our neighbor is during my student pastorate in Maine. One of the three churches to which I was assigned was in a town of 300 people. One day, two women with three children arrived from another state. They rented a house locally. However, it was a fishing village, and

there were no jobs available. The two women were soon out of money, and they asked me for help. I turned to the congregation, and I asked for their help in supporting these two families. The church people were willing to provide food each week, but they would not bring it to the women. That was my job. In a very real sense the people of this fishing village never fully recognized them as neighbors. They were "from away" and, therefore, not "one of us." The villagers did identify with their need for food, and they helped as long as they could avoid talking with them.

An example of being a neighbor to several people at the same time occurred at a church in Vermont where I was their interim pastor. The previous pastor had left under a cloud. He had been in difficulty years before, and he had been put on probation. He did not disclose this to the District Superintendent or the congregation when he was appointed. It nearly split the church when it was revealed. My task was to help people identify and accept each other as neighbors. Some loved the pastor. Others were glad that he was gone. To survive the congregation needed to avoid an endpoint where some were winners while others were losers. Both groups needed to stop viewing each other as "not one of us." It took time and prayer but they did. They were able to help each other heal and reunite as a congregation.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

United Methodist Women



BOOK REVIEW

WHY AFRICA MATTERS

by Cedri Mayson, 2014

This book offers a way to begin to appreciate the significance of the past and present of Africa as well as its possibilities for the future. The author provides an overview of the history, politics, media and religion/spirituality in Africa. He believes that leaders throughout the world need to start planning for the future, not only of Africa but globally as well. The author emphasizes the need to examine how each of these factors affects both the individuals as well as the communities in African cultures. Open minds and a spirit of inclusiveness are essential as we work together to plan for peace, minimal acceptable standards of living, preserving or restoring balance to the ecological systems and the importance of religion and spirituality.

Jane LaPierre, Campbell UMW ❖

Campbell UMC SNAPSHOTS An Historical Skip Around Campus



This Looney Tunes clock is somewhere on our church campus. Can you guess where? You'll find it in a most appropriate place--on a wall in the choir room on the second floor of the AMY Building. Music has been an important part of this church since its beginnings in 1888. Singers, ringers, instrumentalists, conductors, and directors continue to enrich our church community with anthems, hymns, sacred music, and even an occasional Looney Tune.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖

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

NOMADS

Gene and Elaine Hill

NOMADS is an RV-based mission outreach of the United Methodist Church.

When we signed up with the NOMADS group to work at Birchwood camp near Chugiak, Alaska, we had a general idea of the tasks we would be asked to do. As we traveled through Alaska -- Ketchikan, Haines, Seward, Palmer, and the Copper River basin -- we would mention that we were going to work at the Birchwood Camp. Everyone seemed to know where this camp was. They had either worked there, had family that had gone there, or had participated as a camper there. Sometime we were a little suspicious. All of these people could not have been there. They could describe the storage lot, the turnoff, and the name of the lake. We have heard about this camp for many years. One of our ministers had children that went to summer camp there, and we had driven through the camp the summer we were on a Volunteers In Mission (VIM) team that worked on an addition for the Chugiak church in 2001.

Even though the camp property had been occupied since 1917 -- a mink and fox farm -- it did not have a legal address until after the Methodist Church established Birchwood Camp in 1958. It was 2002 when the municipality of Anchorage decided that the road into camp needed a name. They decided to name it after David Blackburn, a well-known Methodist Minister in the Alaska Missionary Conference and a name that Elaine recognized. After David retired as a Methodist Missionary, he moved to Palo Alto and became a liaison for families of missionaries in the Western Jurisdiction and the Board of Global Ministries. He also gave missionaries in his jurisdiction their itineraries while they were home on furlough. How nice to drive down this road with such a familiar name.

So on July 11, all seven NOMADS

arrived at camp, along with another 5th wheel trailer and a motorhome to house camp staff. The camp was full. There was one NOMAD couple from Washington State, our leaders from Pennsylvania, and Vicki from Sitka, Alaska. Her travel was probably the most complicated. She needed to make certain that she made her ferry reservations well before the tourists filled the ferries and was not late to



catch the ferry to get back home.

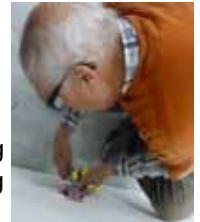
Elaine was excited about one of the tasks, which was to make curtains for one of the buildings. She was given measurements, made two years before by an intern, for the nine windows. The camp had not had time to shop for fabric. After work on day one, we went shopping at Jo-Ann Fabrics in Wasilla and Anchorage to find 40 yards of fabric that looked alike. We bought the ONLY thing available. It reminded us of the blue "forget me nots" -- the Alaska state flower -- and "fireweed" -- the flower that announces spring and goes to seed to predict the coming of the first snow. The Camp wanted a plaid and washable fabric. There were other fabrics that we liked, but the store only had 6 yards of most items, and it would be a minimum of 6 weeks to get anything else.

Since the camp was full, Elaine was not allowed into the building to see the windows and needed to do all of the cutting, pinning, and sewing in her travel trailer. The camp loaned her two tables, 29 by 70 inches each.



This took up the entire inside of the trailer.

Meanwhile Gene and the rest of the crew, worked on wiring for the newest building in camp. The quilters in the area like to have retreats here but they can only plug in one iron per building. When it is raining, or snowing, running from building to building is a bother. Once the new "Fireweed" building is completed they will have plenty of room for tables, good lighting, electricity and plugs. Our team worked on installing the lights and plugs while the big music camp was there. The background music was great.



Once the large music camp was over and the little cabin that sleeps twelve and had the worst roof was empty, our work team could begin to take off the old aluminum roof, do the repair, and replace the metal with hardier steel. They knew that carpenter ants had been at work in there. Brent, the camp host, said that he could hear them chewing. The camp had been sprayed heavily, killing some of the ants. As the roof was removed dead ants fell everywhere, and the rest were busy carrying their eggs away. The largest surprise was that one of the main roof support beams was eaten away. So like many projects, there was just a little bit more to take apart and a little bit more to put back together. Six members of our team worked on that roof for most of the remaining two weeks.

We were able to attend the three camp orchestra performances, take a hike around Psalm Lake, where we sighted a moose swimming, saw snowshoe rabbits, and the one black and white rabbit that lives wild on the property. There were also lots of red squirrels and some cute very tiny brown frogs. The introductory



NOMADS

continued from p.5

talk warned us about a brown bear sow and her two cubs in the area. They had destroyed the latch on the dumpster shortly before we arrived. It would have been nice to see them from a distance, but no luck. There was rain many evenings, but most days were clear. Because of the drought there were few mosquitos.



Alaska experienced a 6.3 magnitude earthquake -- its strongest earthquake in ten years -- one evening we were there.

We put up the curtain rods on a Saturday and the last of the curtains were hung the day before we were scheduled to leave. A work team from the local communities was scheduled to come in on the weekend to put the vapor barrier and metal roof on the cabin. ❖

THE 4TH & 5TH GRADE

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

With the start of a new school year, we want to invite all 4th and 5th grade youth to save the date for our first fellowship event on Sunday, September 20th! The 4th & 5th Grade Youth Fellowship meets once or twice a month throughout the academic year for fun activities both on Campbell UMC campus and off, such as Sky High, Miniture Golf, and Laser Tag. It's a fun way to get to know your fellow Sunday School peers! For more information, please contact co-leaders, Patty Henderson (pjlh@att.net) or Amy Peterson (Amy_L_Peterson@yahoo.com), and watch for more details along with a full fall schedule to come out soon! ❖

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE ALL THOSE SHOES?

The more than 1000 pairs of shoes that we all donated last spring are now stepping out onto the road that will lead to Sierra Leone's school children in two specific communities.

Strategic thinking and research led to a definite plan, and action toward the finish line has begun. The many new and gently-used shoes were found in closets, cupboards and attics where they were stashed temporarily on our campus. Preparing for the "big sort" included pairing of shoes and designing an efficient system for the event.

Helpers assembled around tables piled high with shoes and re-piled with more shoes when those were finished. The outer ring of workers sized and classified the shoes as men's, women's or children's and told the inside runners what sizes they were. The runners placed the shoes in the appropriate boxes and bags, and then the bags were sealed when they each held about 50 pairs. These bags will be stored offsite from the campus until fall, when they will be placed in a shipping container and sail off to West Africa. Pastor Daniel Gbundema plans to claim this cargo dockside in Freetown, Sierra Leone in January when he will be visiting his home country. He plans to load the bags of shoes into a van and drive to Kayima and Mongerey, and oversee the distribution of shoes to school children there. Daniel plans to present a video report to the congregation of children receiving the shoes upon his return to California in the spring of 2016.

Many, many hands made this work light and joyful on July 15th. Those helping included youth, Church and Society members, African Fellowship members and seniors. At least 30 of us were together that one afternoon. We must have worked quickly, as the sorting and most of the packing and bagging were finished in less than an hour.

A huge thank you to ALL who made this a very successful effort for the benefit of children of Sierra Leone. This church-wide project that included almost all of us reached the awesome goal of 1,000 pairs of shoes. These shoes will protect children's feet as they walk to and from school. Thanks for the big dream and for completing a goal at first thought to be too big. It wasn't.

Ellen Droke ❖



Children and Family Ministries

Thanks to all Sunday Summer School Volunteers: This has been a fantastic summer. Dedicated volunteers and diligent parents helped make it happen. Our overall summer attendance has remained steady at around 20 or greater... what an accomplishment. Once again, a big shout of thanks!

Final Summer Sunday, September 6: The children have maintained their religious education momentum throughout the summer, learning about kids in the Bible who did amazing things. We are saying farewell to summer with our final Sunday Fun Day on September 6th.

"Regular" Sunday School begins September 13th: Please fill out a registration form to enroll your child in Sunday School. Registration forms are available on the church website at www.campbellunited.org and in the church office. Volunteers are welcome! If you would like to volunteer to help with Sunday School, please contact Kallie Stroh at kalliestroh@campbellunited.org

New Parent Group: This fall we will be launching a new parenting small group for parents of young children. Stay tuned for more information!

Kallie Stroh, Children and Family Ministries ❖



SUMMER GOSPEL CHOIR

Thanks to ALL volunteer participants who have sung under the direction of James Creer and a huge thank you to James for leading this choir for six weeks this summer. Special appreciation to Juanita Harris, Ronnie Grisby, Me'Shell Gomez, Phaedra Tillery, Madison Bohrer and Armitpal Mahi who formed the core of the Gospel Choir.





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Mailing Date: August 19, 2015
Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**
September 2, 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.



We are back!

Ready to rehearse and learn music so we can lead worship and sing praises to our Lord! If you would like to make music with us, long-term or short-term commitments are welcome. Please contact us.

Joyful Notes (children) starts Wednesday, Sept 9 at 4:00 p.m.. Daelene Groff, director. (408) 395-9215. dcgroff@yahoo.com

Chancel Choir starts Thursday, Sept 10 at 8:00 p.m., Jim Groff, director. (408) 394-9215. jim.groff@pbwiki.com

New A'Peal Ringers starts Saturday, Sept 12 at 8:30 a.m., Mary Ann Gee, director. (408-259-8923) mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com

Carillon Choir starts Thursday, Sept 10 at 6:45 p.m., Jim Groff, director. (408) 394-9215. jim.groff@pbwiki.com

Discovery Ringers (children) starts Sunday, Sept 13 at 2:00 p.m., Mary Ann Gee, director. (408) 259-8923. mary_ann_gee@yahoo.com

Diamond Ringers (children) meets on Wednesday afternoons at 5:00 p.m., Karen Martin-Keller, director. (408) 373-7701. karenmartinkeller@yahoo.com

Mary Ann Gee, Organist/Director Of Music Ministries ✨