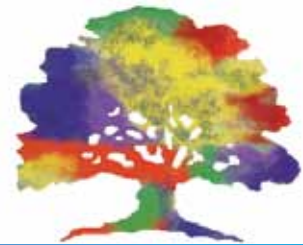


Campbell



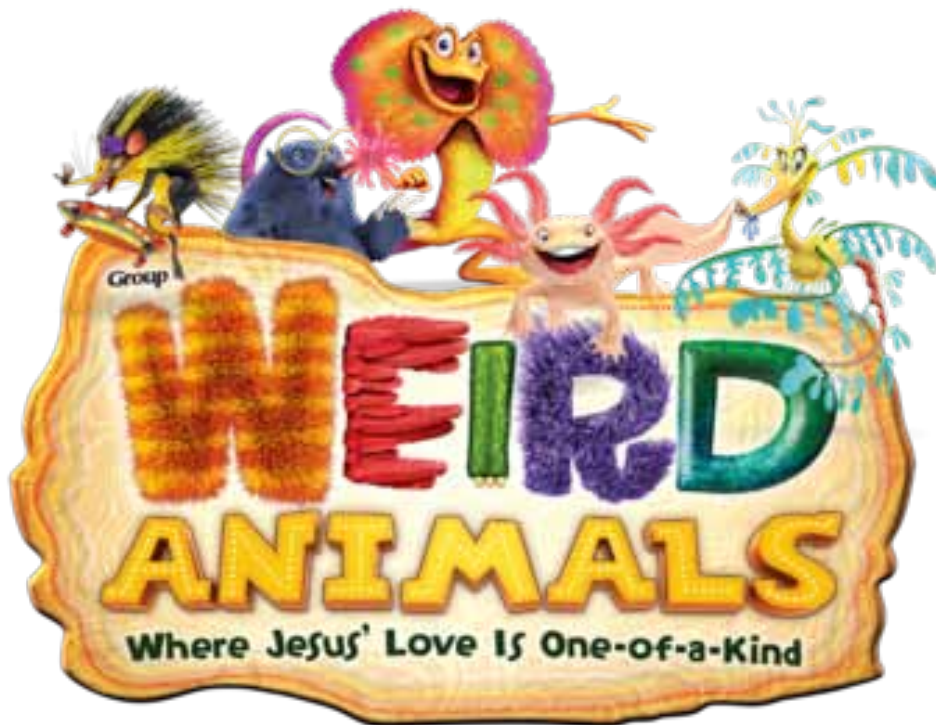
CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE, 2015

Vacation Bible School

June 22-26, 2015



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Campbell United Methodist Church and New Creation United Methodist Church are teaming up to bring you Weird Animals Vacation Bible School! At Weird Animals VBS, kids discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind. Weird Animals is a habitat filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch, and even taste! Team-building games, cool Bible songs and stories, and hands-on craft are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. We'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life. So mark your calendar, bring a friend, and join us for this one-of-a-kind adventure!

Vacation Bible School is for kids 3 years old and potty trained through 5th grade.

Dates: June 22-26, 2015 Time: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Location: Campbell United Methodist Church

Cost: \$30/child & \$15 for each additional sibling

Look for a registration form in the church office or on the website at www.campbellunited.org.

Questions? Contact Kallie Stroh at kalliestroh@campbellunited.org or (408)-378-3472

Campbell Connections

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Campbell United Methodist Church
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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**



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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

On April 24, I was on retreat with our Bishop and Cabinet and the Conference Core Team that I chair, working on the Conference's strategic plan. Over dinner, someone at our table mentioned that this day—April 24—was the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey. "My people!" I responded. My grandparents immigrated to this country in their escape from that genocide.

Alan Jones—who serves on the Core Team with me—asked me to tell more about my grandparents, and about their stories of that experience. I did; I told a few stories that my grandmother used to tell, of forced marches and of losing her home, of worry that there would not be enough money to survive. And then Alan led the entire group in praying for and honoring my ancestors. It was beautiful. And I felt that small group of people understand something about me that I don't often talk about.

There is something powerful about telling your story. It is even more powerful to know your story is heard. Telling and hearing one another's stories is how we get to know each other, how we learn how we are the same and how we are different from one another. It is how we break through politely living alongside of one another, and move toward being in relationship.

Sometimes we hesitate to ask questions of people who seem very different from ourselves. It takes time. We may not be able to empathize right away. We might have to ask more questions before we understand the story. We fear seeming intrusive, or too personal, or offensive. And so we stand back, make assumptions about what we have in common and what we don't. And then we're stuck.

Crossing cultural lines—getting to know one another across differences in race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, even gender—requires us to ask questions. It takes a willingness to see ourselves as learners, and to invite other people to teach us about something we have no experience with ourselves. It takes intention and effort...and time.

There's a fairly young organization in New York called Narrative4, that works to bring people together across differences by exchanging stories, listening to each other until each person can tell the story of someone else as if it were their own. They have an idea: "that if I can hear your story deeply enough to retell it in my own words, as if it happened to me—and you can do the same for my story—then we will have seen the world through each other's eyes." I think they just might be right.

We have a wealth of stories among us, here at the corner of Winchester and Hamilton. Let's get talking.

With blessings, and with much gratitude to be in ministry alongside of you--

Kathi ❖



United Methodist Women

BOOK REVIEWS by Jane LaPierre

Graduate Recognition Sunday!

On **Sunday, June 7th**, we will recognize our graduates in worship. If you have a graduate in the family (high school, vocational or trade school, college, or post-graduate degrees), please send the name, school from which graduated, and future plans if known, to the church office by Monday, June 1st so they can be listed in the bulletin.

barbarawade@campbellunited.org ❖

SHOP WITH SCRIP



Send your graduates out into the wide world with love, support, and a thoughtful gift to show them how proud you are! You can use scrip to pick up dorm essentials, some of their favorite comfort foods, or even just a handful of gift cards to get them started. We have plenty of options at the Scrip table and many more can be ordered.

Amazon.com, Target, Walmart, Bed Bath & Beyond, iTunes, Chipotle, Kohl's, Arco and so much more.....

You can also check out Shopwithscrip.com for more options.

Janine Payton ❖

Summer Gospel CHOIR



During our Sunday worship services this summer, we are going to start a Gospel Choir under the direction of James

Creer. The Chancel Choir will be on a well-deserved summer hiatus. This opportunity to sing as a group is open to ALL who would like to engage in this new endeavor. Previous singing experience NOT required.

The dates to sing during worship will be June 28, July 5, 12, 26, August 2 and 9. Practices will be from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary, prior to the 10:00 a.m. worship time.

There are two special preparatory rehearsals on two Wednesday evenings, June 10 and June 24, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. These two sessions will introduce each participant to Gospel singing.

For more information, please contact James at:

jamescreer@comcast.net ❖

In the COMMUNITY



Community Flea Market

Alum Rock United Methodist Church has a flea market on the last Saturday of every month to raise money for their outreach programs. You are invited to come and shop, or rent space and sell your own merchandise. They also sell delicious luncheon items. The day I was there it was tacos and hamburgers. The church is located at 30 Kirk Avenue, just off Alum Rock Avenue, on a hill on the east side of San Jose with a beautiful view of the valley.

Contact Myra at Epifany@AlumRockUMC.org to make your reservation. Donations appreciated.

Elaine Hill ❖

HOW COFFEE SAVED MY LIFE

by Ellie Noscher, 2013

The author grew up in Minnesota. She decided that she wanted to experience being in a culture where she was in the minority. Uruguay was the country available to her mission group. The group divided up, and she went alone to her mission town. In her words, "I discovered the depths of loneliness and hardship. I discovered what it felt like to live with the elements. I came to know heat and cold, surrender, brokenness, sickness, vulnerability, isolating silence, hardship like never before. All my expectations were thwarted, and I learned to live in Uruguay. I came to know grace, hospitality, empowerment, strength, courage, patience and love with a transformational power and depth. Sorrow and disillusionment opened up room in my heart for deeper truer laughter and joy."

Reading this book will help you understand the openness and the commitment to change needed to navigate the experience of living in another culture. Ellie saw it as a transforming experience bringing her closer to God.

CHASING CHAOS: MY DECADE IN AND OUT OF HUMANITARIAN AID

by Jessica Alexander, 2012.

The author explains the difficulties and learning curve associated with working for NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and the toll it takes on a person's emotional and spiritual well-being. The author's experience reveals an addiction to excitement and crisis rather than a life changing and transforming experience such as Ellie Noscher revealed.

It is definitely worth reading, if only to understand the complexity of problems having many NGOs interacting in the same area. ❖

Circuit Writer



Learn to See

Rev. Larry LaPierre

We are occasionally blessed to meet a person who causes us, perhaps unknowingly, to look more deeply into ourselves. One of those people worked with me at Polaroid Corporation. Bob, who later became a professional photographer, said to a group of us in the lab one day, "Learn to see, and throw away your cameras!" It would be something like telling those of us who enjoy music to learn to listen and then discard anything that is used to record sounds.

How do we throw away the very means of capturing the moment on film or, in more recent times, on silicon? The reality, of course, is that we don't need cameras to capture an image... On a walk around Quail Hollow I watched a person, presumably a real estate agent, retrieve a small computer or a tablet from his car. He lifted it up and seemed to photograph a home.

"Learn to see, and throw away your camera!" My friend was ahead of his time. We do throw away our cameras. We replace them with computers, tablets and even phones to capture the images that we want to save. We can even post them on the internet for anyone to see.

"Learn to see, and throw away your camera!" I learned to at least "look" more deeply as I listened to one of my uncles. Over time he taught me to look and then to "see" some of the brokenness of Nature. He was tuned in to Nature long before many environmentalists. He pointed out that the Nashua River, which flowed through the small city where we lived, was a different color each day. I knew that this happened because the paper mills upstream discharged waste water from making paper of various colors into the river. However, it wasn't until my uncle shared his experience from fifty years earlier of

the river as a place to swim, to fish and to hunt ducks that I began to "see" that something was wrong.

"Learning to see" may be the most important step in knowing how to respond to any of God's people. Good professional photographers can often "see" more than just what our eyes first notice. They may sense an important part of a person's character. They know how to photograph the person to allow others to "see" what is beyond their outward appearance.

However, we can also "learn to see" something of a person's character, even our own, by simply observing how each of us reacts to people of different backgrounds, physical and mental abilities or signs of social status. Do we look down when a person in need approaches us? Do we appear anxious when we are near someone who is ill or dying? Do we turn away from people who resemble someone who has hurt us in the past?

Actually, the images that we record can matter a great deal. However, what matters is whether we can look at Nature and "see" it as the environment we all share. What matters is whether we can look at another person, especially someone in need, and "see" that person as part of the same family of God to which we belong. This happens only when we let go of the memories, the prejudices and the fears that limit our ability to "see" one another, even ourselves, as truly lovable and treasured children of God.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

CARTOON CORNER

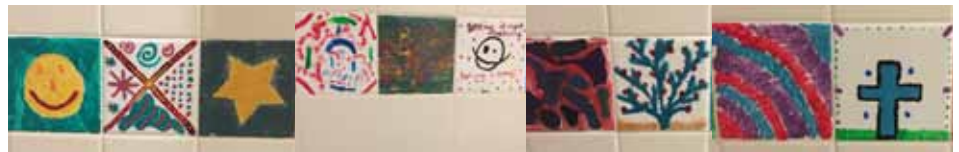


IT WAS YOU WHO SET ALL THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EARTH, YOU MADE BOTH SUMMER AND WINTER.

PSALM 74:17, NIV



CUMC SNAPSHOTS An Historical Skip Around Campus



Administration+Music+Youth=AMY

The AMY building, completed in 2004, was designed for Administration (first floor), Music (second floor), and Youth (third floor). Some of our children created colorful designs for ceramic tiles which can be seen on the third floor bathroom walls. The tiles are a little reminder of the big opportunities provided for our children and youth since our congregation was organized in 1888.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖

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

Care-A-Vaners



Fortuna, Home of Kay Hamp*

On Sunday, April 26, eleven Care-A-Vaners arrived at the Fortuna United Methodist Church to spend a week painting the exterior.

We were originally scheduled to work at Willits; but about 10 days before we were to arrive, they canceled. Fortuna found out that we were free, and they scrambled. They trimmed the bushes and plants around the church and even took out two large juniper trees. They then power washed the exterior of the buildings and made arrangements for us to park our rigs at various people's homes. The church parking lot only holds about 4 cars. We stayed at



an Alpaca ranch. The owner mowed the field beside their house to make room for us. Several of the church members made us morning and afternoon snacks, and they even held a pot luck dinner for us one evening.

In 1886 the Ladies Aid Society began raising funds to build a church in Springville, later known as Fortuna. They had been on a circuit for about 36 years and were ready for a church. Over the years there have been three church buildings all on the same lot. When they outgrew one building, they picked it up and moved it to the back of the lot and built a new structure -- 1887, 1897, and 1931.

In December of 1964, the Eel River flooded and damaged a lot of homes. The Fortuna Methodist Church was where relief workers stayed while helping to muck out the houses. Darryl Shaw, one of our Care-A-Van Team members remembers chaperoning 40 teenagers from Southern California to Fortuna for this work. He says he can still remember seeing the mud that filled those homes and hearing the teenagers as they realized they were going to be the people who took it out.



The other major disaster to involve the church was a large earthquake in 1992. There were several Methodist Churches in the area, including the Ferndale Methodist Church, where the earthquake was centered. Fortuna Methodist Church was the only Methodist Church to suffer damage. Since they needed to repair two sides of the church, they used this opportunity to move the two side walls out in order to create side aisles in the church. The interior character of the church was not changed.

On Monday, the first day of work, we did scraping, filling, and priming the church. At noon the wind came up hard and strong. It was just like being on the Kansas plains. The second day the wind started a little earlier. By Thursday and Friday, the wind blew all day. We had red cones on the street around the church and signs indicating we were painting, so at night people would move the cones and park their cars anyway. Elaine met a lot of the neighbors as she went knocking on doors to find car owners to see if they really wanted their cars painted to match the church.

This is one of the few times that Care-A-Vaners have not completed their work. The second story of the church has a lot of trim work to create the look of Nova Scotia. So the work team is planning to return in October to complete the painting, this time to include the Sunday School buildings. Do you have an RV? Do you like to paint trim? Come and join us.

Gene & Elaine Hill ❖



*Kay Hamp is an active member of Campbell UMC

Memories from Giddyup, Giddalong Gideon

the Children's Musical celebrated on April 26, 2015



PHOTO CREDITS: David Keller and Mary Ann Gee



CROP Walk 2015

Our church once again participated in Ending Hunger One Step At A Time. It has been a tradition of this church to participate in this walk to end hunger for many years. We had a total of 11 people walking. Nine of those walkers were the 4-5th grade youth fellowship and their leaders. Once again Jack and Joyce Hocker, faithful walkers, completed their walk. The 4-5th graders want to thank all those who sponsored them for the Crop Walk. It was a great service project experience for the kids. We all had a great time walking, playing and wandering in the Rose Garden.

Patty Henderson ❖



LOOK FOR THE FULL REPORT IN NEXT ISSUE - JULY/AUGUST
of the May 9th STOP HUNGER DAY at CUMC where 40,000 meals were packaged



“His Eye is on the Sparrow” by Lenora Blouin

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father . . . So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Matthew 10:29; 31

This verse has always been one of my favorites, especially during my lean years when I was attending college and struggling at low paying jobs to pay my rent and buy food. Although my life has changed since those days, this verse still resonates with me because it is comforting to know that God loves and takes care of me as He has all my life.

When you know the background of this verse the image becomes even more powerful. In biblical

times the sparrow was considered an insignificant bird and was sold for a penny as food for the very poor. It wasn't even considered worthy of being sold to the poor as a sacrificial offering because it was too common, too plentiful and of little value. In Leviticus 12:8 the law is very clear that only two types of birds were acceptable as offerings: the turtledove and the pigeon. Luke 2:24 tells us that Joseph and Mary, when they brought Jesus to the temple for “purification” rites, brought a pair of turtledoves and two young pigeons. Yet it is not a pigeon or a dove that God refers to when it “falls to the ground” but the lowly sparrow.

Ethel Waters sings, in that wonderful song, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*,

*“I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”*





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People reaching out, with open minds, souls and hearts -

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 - Engaging creativity
 - Building social justice
 - Providing loving, welcoming community
- for Christ and the world.

