

# *the* BUILDER



SEPTEMBER 2012

## ✠ John Wesley's Wisdom for the Political Season ✠

National elections are upon us. We will hear a lot of debate in the coming weeks over war and peace, national security, and the economy. Unfortunately, politics is increasingly polarized and uncivil. Political debate has become less a discussion of ideas, and more an attempt to discredit and demonize the opponent. I see this principle operating between political parties, nations, and even disagreeing factions within the United Methodist church. It is therefore enlightening to remember the words of John Wesley, himself no stranger to political controversy. What follows is from his Preface to his Fifty Three Sermons.

Are you persuaded you see more clearly than me? It is not unlikely that you may. Then treat me as you would desire to be treated yourself upon a change of circumstances. Point me out a better way than I have yet known. Show me it is so, by plain proof of Scripture. And if I linger in the path I have been accustomed to tread, and am therefore unwilling to leave it, labor with me a little; take me by the hand, and lead me as I am able to bear. But be not displeased if I entreat you not to beat me down in order to quicken my pace: I can go but feebly and slowly at best; then, I should not be able to go at all. May I not request of you, further, not to give me hard names, in order to bring me into the right way? Suppose I were ever so much in the wrong, yet this would not set me right. Rather, it would make me run so much the farther from you, and so get more and more out of the way.

Nay, perhaps, if you are angry, so shall I be too; and then there will be small hopes of finding the truth. If once anger arise... this smoke will so dim the eyes of my soul, that I shall be able to see nothing clearly. For God's sake, if it be possible to avoid it, let us not provoke one another to wrath. Let us not kindle in each other this fire of hell; much less blow it up into a flame. If we could discern truth by that dreadful light, would it not be loss, rather than gain? For, how far is love, even with many wrong opinions, to be preferred before truth itself without love! We may die without the knowledge of many truths, and yet be carried into Abraham's bosom. But, if we die without love, what will knowledge avail? Just as much as it avails the devil and his angels.

This fall, pray for grace and wisdom for our political leaders. And may we always have patience with one another.

Peace,

Pastor Rob



Lisa Jacobs

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[www.jointyouthgroup.com](http://www.jointyouthgroup.com)

## Youth Group Plans for September

**Most events will be held at Almaden Hills UMC this month.**

**Wednesday, Sept 5 - HOPE Worship night- 6:30pm-8:30pm for all teens, kids and families. Super casual, contemporary and contemplative, creative and different kind of small worship service.**

**6:30pm-7:00pm- Pizza, salad and fruit dinner**

**7:00pm- Worship service**

**8:30pm-Pick up**

**No matter what your affiliation is with our 3 churches and how you came to find the JYM we can all agree that is good to serve others! It is so important for families to model giving generously and serving the least of these. It's also important for students in particular to serve alongside people of all ages (most of youth ministry is age specific and while that is important, inter-generational stuff is essential for development as well). In the last year our 3 churches have begun a group called "Building Hope". We do city wide collaborative service projects quarterly and do a Mexico mission trip for all ages every other summer. In 2.5 weeks we will be having our fall "Change the World" Day- Saturday, September 15th, 8:00am- 12:30pmish. It begins at Willow Glen UMC with breakfast and send off. For more info and to sign up go to: [changetheworld.wgumc.org](http://changetheworld.wgumc.org)**

**Sept 6 - 6-7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Joint Youth Council- Adult Staff Relations committee meeting at AHUMC**

**Sept 9 - Lisa at CPUMC for 10am Worship**

**4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Junior High Youth Group**

**5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Worship Band Practice**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM ALL PARENTS MEETING**

**6:30 PM - 8:30 PM High School Youth Group**

**Sept 11 - 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM 6th grader only- Dinner and Nickel City night! Bring \$5 and meet Lisa at El Pollo Loco on Branham and Camden**

**Sept 12 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Wednesday Night Live- Bible Study- 6th-12th- Dinner included- \$3.00**

**Sept 15 - 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Family and Students- "Building Hope" Intergenerational Day of Service- Meet at 8:00am for breakfast at WGUMC. You MUST RSVP for this event and pick your service location**

**Sept 19 - Wed Night Live - Girls Night/Guys Night**

**Sept 27 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM JYM Leadership Team- 7th-12th graders- Application based group picked in September**

**Sept 29 - 5:00 PM "I need a break " Babysitting Night and SLEEPOVER afterwards for 6th-12th grade students! 11:30 AM Sleepover pick up at 11:30am after church. (Pick ups before the church service need to happen by 9:45am)**

**Sept 30 - NO YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT**

# Scouting Ministry News by Ted Kraynick

Scouting can be joined at any time during the year. The Fall, with the return to school of Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venture Scouts, is a time of year that the Boy Scouts of America selects for their official recruiting drives. Especially so for Cub Scouts, this is an important recruitment season.

Our church's Cub Pack 374 is having a recruitment drive that started in late August with Back to School nights and will continue on through September. Cub Scouts is a great learning fun program for boys in Grades 1 – 5. A boy can join the program in any of those grades. The Pack is accepting new scouts at this time as well as all year round. Please contact me if your son, grandson, nephew, etc., is interested.

Pack 374 enjoyed Family Camp in Boulder Creek last month. They had a great time camping and learning outdoor skills for both the scouts and their siblings. During the past summer most of the Cubs also enjoyed different Day Camps of outdoor activities located around the Santa Clara Valley.

Our Troop 373 had a wonderful time away at their annual Summer Camp on Shaver Lake at BSA Camp Chawanakee. The Troop brought home the award again this year for the best Boy Scout Troop camp in their section of the campground - known as The Thumbstick award. A multitude of merit badges were earned by the boys away at summer camp which will help them all advance along their trail towards Eagle Scout.

In August we had an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony in The Sanctuary to recognize Joshua Bowen on his achievement of Scouting's highest rank achievement. Joshua begins college this month studying Engineering in a college in Michigan. Good luck to Josh with his education and future career.

The church's new Venture Crew 373 continues to meet around once a month. It is still getting off the ground and the members are enthusiastic. The Crew has been learning about gun safety from a NRA instructor. They will be going target shooting soon at a nearby gun range. They are especially looking for new members to fill out their ranks. The more the merrier. Venturing is a coed scout unit for girls and boys from ages 14 to 21. The emphasis is on more high adventure types of activities. Proper training and equipment is a high priority for all activities.

For more information on any of our three BSA units please contact me through our church directory or through the church office. – Ted Kraynick

## **A Time for Action**

We all have read and heard about some schools and how poorly they are doing these days. People say some of the causes are a lack of adequate funding, lack of good teachers, and not enough parental involvement. The issue is complicated and sometimes we just sigh and want to give up and let someone else work on it. Think again! A few Cambrian Park UMC members started a new Mission last spring at Oster Elementary School to be a proactive force for the children there. Some volunteered for an hour or two a week and some spent up to six hours a week. What a rewarding time we had helping young children get to paint, or helping with reading and math games or helping study for a test. It was fun to help out in the class without the responsibility for planning. We took some of the burden from the teachers and offered extra attention to those children who needed it most.

There is a new principal at Oster this year and we are planning to connect with her and continue our “Helping our Neighborhood School” Mission. We will have more news in mid September, but please consider joining us and to do just a little bit to improve the education of children. It doesn't take much of your time or effort to help a child and a teacher have a better day and perhaps a better year.

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## **COME JOIN THE CHOIR!!**

Choir rehearsals will begin again on Thursday, September 6 and we will sing for the first time on September 9. Please join us! You don't have to be able to read music. We only require that you like to sing, and will come to rehearsals to learn the music. We will teach you everything you need to know to be successful in the choir.

Did you sing in a choir in school? Did you enjoy it? It doesn't matter if that was last spring – or years ago. We will welcome you to our group, and make sure that you feel confident taking part in the music making at Cambrian Park Church. Talk to any member of the choir. We will all assure you that this is something that you can do.

If you are interested, talk to Karen Trydahl, or just come to our first rehearsal. If you are not sure that this will fit into your life style, try it out for a while. Christmas time is coming soon, and people love to sing Christmas music. Be a part of that enjoyment this year – and glorify God in the process!

## News From Seekers

The Seekers group meets every Tuesday morning (except for the month of August) at 10:00 AM for personal and spiritual growth, support and friendship.

Our main agenda is reading together and discussing thought provoking books. When we resume meeting on **Tues. Sept 4** we will continue reading *The Muslim Next Door*.

Some of the books we are considering reading this Fall are: *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold Kushner, *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom, and *Embracing The Mystery* by Meredith Jordan. We are always looking for new book suggestions that can help us grow and learn.

Seekers is starting it's 16<sup>th</sup> year and we are always open to new people joining us. Four ladies have joined us this past year.

For questions about the group, talk to Barbara Hawkins or Melody Ross. Call the church office at 408-377-8155 or email us at [seekers@cambrianparkumc.org](mailto:seekers@cambrianparkumc.org).

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## Sunday Fellowship Time

We all enjoy this time after worship! Please consider volunteering to either help set up or clean up our refreshments for a Sunday. With a few more hands, we can set up a once a month schedule. Thank you to all of you who consistently help . . .you know who you are and you are much appreciated! Please talk to Melody Ross if this something you might be able to help with . . . You can speak with her after church on Sundays, or call the church office at 408-377-8155

Also don't forget our sign up sheet for snacks for fellowship time . . .it's been looking pretty empty lately . . . .Healthy snacks are always appreciated and help make our Fellowship Time even more fun!



## Update on Fair Trade Coffee

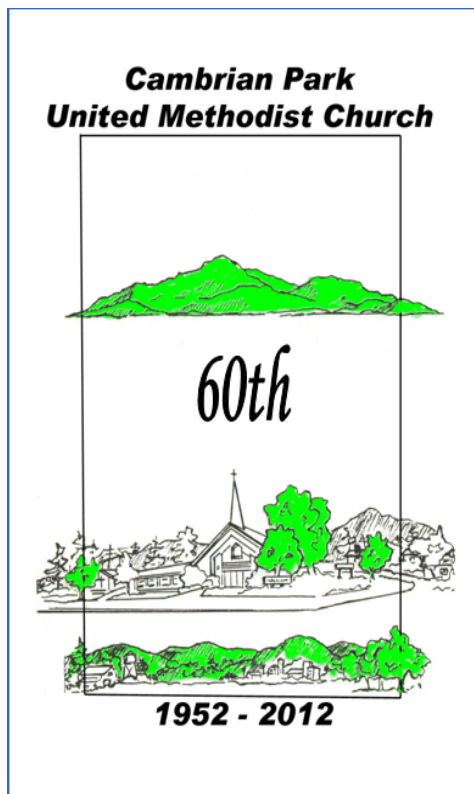
Did you know that the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Coffee Project is ten years old and that thousands of United Methodist churches have lived their values by using *Fair Trade Coffee* and other Fair Trade products??

Our church has been serving *Fair Trade Coffee* for over *eight years!*

The Equal Exchange Organization from which we buy our coffee introduced Fair Trade products to the US 25 years ago. To refresh our memories, Fair Trade is small farmer-centered . . . it helps small farmers thrive and survive. Equal Exchange established small farmer cooperatives throughout the world to do this. It not only helps the small farmer earn a livable wage but also helps protect the environment and encourages sustainable farming.

Recently there is a movement to allow large plantation coffee and cacao into the Fair Trade system; Equal Exchange believes this will weaken Fair Trade and force small farmers to compete with large plantations, which is the very thing Fair trade was trying to prevent in the first place. We support Equal Exchange by speaking out for and buying authentic small farmer-centered Fair Trade products.

Your Fair Trade Fellowship Coffee Committee,  
Melody Ross, Susan Darland, June Nasca



Order your copy of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet and CD for \$10.00. The booklet is a record of our history in written word and pictures. There is a page featuring the pictures of the Pastors who have served Cambrian Park over the years with their time, talents and gifts. This history covers the dedication and construction of our first building to the installation of our new solar panels; from family camps to the family Mexico mission trip. This is the story of the life of our church. It serves as a testament to our living out our vision "*To grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and to live our faith through action.*"

The CD has the entire slide show from the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. It also includes the many pictures taken during the celebration itself. It is the visual record of the life of our church. Together they serve as a wonderful testament of the many lives and stories that have been a part of this great church.

To order your copy of the booklet and CD please send a check to CPUMC at 1919 Gunston Way, San Jose, CA 95124. Make the check payable to CPUMC

with **60<sup>th</sup> booklet & CD** written on the memo line. Please be sure to include your name and address.

If you do not want the set you can order just the booklet for \$7.00 or the CD for \$3.00. Time is running out so get your order in right away.



## Scrip – Plan for the Fall!

Are you aware of our **Scrip** program? You can support this fundraising effort by simply planning ahead. Are you planning a trip this fall and like to stay in **Comfort Inn (4%)**, **Choice Hotels (4%)** or **Marriott (8%)**?

Do you have any children going to college? How about an **AT&T 125 Minute Prepaid Card (20%!)**? Buying clothes for school? **JCPenney (5%)**, **Sears (7%)**, **TJ Maxx (7%)**, **Macy's (10%)**, **LL Bean (16%)** and **Lands' End (18%!**)

Fixing up your home before the holidays? **Home Depot (4%)**, **HomeGoods (7%)**, **Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores (6%)**

All these and **many, many more retailers** (<http://www.cambrianparkumc.org/give/scrip--escrip.html>) are participating in the **Scrip** program. You simply order gift cards from us on Sunday mornings (you can even place an order online in advance at <http://www.cambrianparkumc.org/give/scrip--escrip.html>), then the order is placed and you pay and pick them up the following week or sooner if needed. Many gift cards are available without preorder, so ask! For each card you purchase, CPUMC receives a percentage of that purchase. It's that simple! Please consider this when you start thinking of the things you need to do this fall.

Thank you as always for your support.

Your Scrip Team: Elaine Hughes, LuAnne Behringer, Evan Dowling, June Nasca

## ***Finances - Thank YOU!***

The year 2012 has been fairly calm (except for the checks printing problem in April) and that's because all of you have been diligent in keeping up with your pledges, reducing expenses and increasing the use of our buildings. At the end of July, our General Fund is **positive \$17,826.88!** (Last year at this same time we were a negative \$14K.) This is the first time we have been running positive in many years. Thus, a great big THANK YOU to you is in order.



### **Finance Team:**

Karen Trydahl – Secretary, Contributions and Reporting

Barbara Stackhouse, Treasurer, Expenses

Rhonda Canale, Assistant Treasurer, Expenses

Elaine Hughes, Chair

Andy Hilton, Trustees

Pastor Rob Kirk

*Open, Endowment Chair (Would you like to work with this team?)*

# Prayers

- 🕯️ **For comfort after a loss: the family of Ruby Long; Terri and her family after the loss of her father.**
- 🕯️ **For encouragement: the unemployed, underemployed, and people living in cars.**
- 🕯️ **For happiness and good decisions: our teens who are starting college this month, and their families.**
- 🕯️ **For healing: Patrick, Jodi, Margaret, Raymond Barber, Peter Giannini.**
- 🕯️ **For a renewed sense of peace: Annie and Marlin Deckert who were burglarized in August.**



3  
Otto & Carol  
Schmid

22  
Paul & Amy  
Barker



1  
Bob Wilson

2  
Eric Barker

3  
Amy Barker

7  
Daniel  
Mendoza

8  
Marvin  
Hudson &  
Hank Norberg

9  
June Nasca

12  
John Ross

18  
Andrew  
Barker

19  
Jill Fish

24  
Andy Hilton

26  
Scott Baker

27  
Audra Deckert

30  
Susie Wilson



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### **Newsletter Deadline**

Deadline for the articles is the 15th of the month.

Please e-mail articles when possible to:

[\*\*newsletter@cambrianparkumc.org\*\*](mailto:newsletter@cambrianparkumc.org)

Thank You,  
Tabbytha Jensen -  
Editor

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

[www.cambrianparkumc.org](http://www.cambrianparkumc.org)

**OUR MISSION:** To grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and to live our faith through action.

**OUR VISION:** We are about connecting real faith to real life. We carry our faith into our everyday lives at home, at work, at school and anywhere we go. We are committed to growing faith that has integrity and to making a positive difference because of our faith. We focus on developing Christian principles and practices that make a difference.

**Our VALUES:** Our values include personal and spiritual growth for all ages, healthy relationships, respectful communication, positive teamwork, safety in all forms, respecting diversity, earth stewardship, impact in the community and mentoring the next generation.

