

**Rev. Myron Herrell served from 1952- 1962. He writes:**

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*Dear Friends,*

*We would love to have been able to be with you today for this special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since I no longer drive on freeways, it was not possible for me to make the trip. I was pastor of this great church when you celebrated your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That seems like a long time ago now. My ten years of serving as pastor here were among the greatest of my ministry. I think of the outstanding lay leadership in this church. They contributed not only to the local church but also to the worldwide church mission. And I think of the young people who grew up here during those years – many of whom went on to do great thing in many other places. This church was the seed bed for them. You deserve to be congratulated not just for being a building that has stood here on this corner for 100 years, but mostly for the people this church has served and inspired for 100 years. We send our love to everyone.*

**Rev. Beverly Davis served from 1958- 1960. She writes:**

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*Greetings and congratulations to the Burlingame UMC as it celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I have many fond memories of my service with you. Unfortunately on the day of your celebration I will be visiting with my daughter Susan (just a toddler when we were at Burlingame) in Richardson, Texas where she now teaches High School. Again, congratulations!*

**Rev. Norm Mowrey Served from 1975-1979. He writes:**

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*Thanks for inviting me to join the centennial celebration. I am sorry that I will not be able to be there but I want the congregation to know that I have wonderful memories of my ministry there. The Burlingame Church was my first appointment. I have deep appreciation for the many strong lay persons I was privileged to work with including Dr. Arthur Corey, Pat Goodier, Dorothy Farmer, Grace Bishop, Peggy Champlain and many more. I am now serving the Church of the Wayfarer in Carmel and have been a United Methodist Pastor for 33 years. Linda is a school teacher and we have two children and one grandchild. The Burlingame United Methodist will always be special in my heart.*

**Rev. Jim Corson served from 1978- 1989. He writes:**

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*I regret that circumstances prevent our being present for the Centennial celebration. It is hard to imagine that it has been 25 years since we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and had a plaque placed in the sidewalk marking the original site of the church on Burlingame Avenue. I vividly recall the parade over there, following a Sunday service, with many of us in period costume. Please extend our greetings to all on this special occasion. We recall our years in Burlingame with a special fondness, as we worked together through many issues and celebrated many accomplishments. And, I want to take this occasion and means to express a special "thank you" to those friends of my parents who continue to remember them through support of the PSR scholarship in their memory. At this time of looking back, I am sure that you are also looking to the future, and we wish you well in your ministry there - as pastor and people - in the months and years that lie ahead.*

***Rev. Richard Brunner Served as Associate Pastor from 1979-1985. He writes:***

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*Joyous greetings! Vivien and I express our thanks and appreciation for your invitation to participate in this historic 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Burlingame United Methodist Church. We deeply regret that we cannot attend and share in all of the joyous festivities and fellowship of this day! However, we write this letter as our personal greetings to all of the members and friends of this great church. We hold so many wonderful personal memories of our ministry with you as we served you during the years of 1979-1985 as an Associate Pastor responsible for the Christian Education program and leadership training. This included children, youth and adult ministries and many other strategic and missional programs, such as the early development of Call Primrose outreach program that kept this outstanding church involved in the life of Burlingame. It was such a privilege to serve in those years with such creative and loving leaders who sought always to bring the life of Jesus ministry into the lives of this church and community. We will always remember those wonderful plays, dramas and dinners shared in Loufbourow Hall. For example, Christmas dinner with the Wesleys; enactment of the Last Supper with Jesus; and many others. We remember so many drama leaders with appreciation such as Diane Johnson, Marilyn Landefeld, and Sybil Siegel. We were privileged to work with creative musicians under the leadership of Bill Ward, Music Director, John McIntosh, Organist and Bill Sveglini, creative guitarist and music leader of the Contemporary Chapel Worship. I will never forget the loyalty and faithfulness of the Progressors and Keystone adult classes and their continuing gift of leadership and mission to this church. Within the membership of these classes, in the church's history, we see the people who have constantly kept the vitality of ministry in this church. It was a great privilege to work with them, especially in many Biblical Studies and Classes.*

*Finally., I want to express my gratitude to this church for all the many expressions of kindness and support that you have given to us during and alter our years of service in Burlingame. It was, indeed, a privilege to serve with Rev. Jim Corson and other pastors of his staff during our years there.*

***Rev. Kristin L. Sachen served as Associate Pastor from 1983-1988. She writes:***

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*Dear Friends and colleagues of Burlingame UMC,*

*It is with great fondness that I recall my years-with you at Burlingame as the youth director and as the associate pastor. We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary while I was there, including the historic walk and laying the plaque on the original site. So much ministry and mission has been accomplished through the Burlingame church — lives touched by worship and fellowship, high moments and low moments, and the steady pulse of outreach to those needing to know God's love. You have been blessed to be a blessing and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of that good work for several years.*

*There are many people and stories that come to mind, too many to recount in a letter. Let me say though that I began my ordained ministry 25years ago this summer and count the people and the staff at BUMC as a part of a very firm foundation that God has laid for me. I came to know and love all the stages of life in a church, the importance of baptisms and good funerals, the value of meeting once a week at 6:30 a.m. to explore faith together. I learned how to read a church budget, hold a charge conference, and design a welcome for new members. I learned the importance of Sabbath rest and to pay attention to the church year. I learned how hard it is to leave a congregation and move on to serve another.*

*My prayer for you at this centennial moment is that with God's grace you will truly build an open and authentic community of Christ for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. People still hunger for the good news of Jesus Christ — may you continue to be the hearts and hands of hope.*

*Martha and I send our regrets that we'll not be able to attend the Burlingame UMC centennial celebration planned for this Sunday -- we'll be very much involved in our own worship service here in Napa (Martha in the choir and I in the pulpit). Nevertheless we send our fondest greetings and best wishes to you all! The wonderful people of Burlingame UMC were so welcoming of us during those years (1984-1989) that I served as one of your associate pastors (Kris Sachen, for a time, was the other). My time among you helped me become the pastor that I am -- as a preacher, certainly, but also in forming my great passion for the ministries of social justice as I worked alongside Jackie McAtee and the wonderful volunteers of CALL Primrose. And while her health has failed but her mind remains as sharp as ever, we were grateful to be reunited here in Napa with a former parishioner, Mary Brown, whose passion for peace with justice burns as brightly as it ever did when Stan was alive and by her side in Burlingame (We were also delighted to be reunited with Bill & Margaret Payne here in Napa!). Thelma Castle's stands on behalf of the disenfranchised in San Mateo County holds fond memories for me as well. It's through such constant witness, I believe, that I have helped to shepherd the 1st UMC of Napa to become affiliated with The Center for Progressive Christianity and, just recently, to declare itself to be a Reconciling Congregation. We stand on the shoulders of an endless line of saints; these are but a few. The music ministry of Burlingame UMC was a special gift to both Martha and to me as we listened to and learned from those two great musicians: Bill Ward, our Music Director, and John McIntosh, he of long-tenure at the organ. In fact, it was John that gave me a wonderful metaphor for life: you never stop playing your song each time you make the inevitable mistake, you simply play on; and sooner than later your song is everything anyone hears and remembers. Sharon Cheek brought her own gifts and passion to the music of Burlingame; and I've wonderful memories of Bill Sveglini, as he guided us in the music of our early morning chapel services every Sunday -- his abilities far outshone his disability.*

*Fred and Mary Lou Baldra, in particular, stand out for us; they were of wonderful support to a young pastor and his family. While Mary Lou was the chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, her wit and wisdom smoothed many a conflict and helped keep our ministry focused in the ways that it should be. She gave me the greatest gift any SPRC chairperson can give a pastor, when she said to me once, "We know that you won't be with us for a long time, Doug; how can we help you be the pastor that you want to be?" She put me in touch with my passions and gave me the ongoing encouragement to pursue them.*

*The list would be far too long if I were to mention all of the many people of Burlingame UMC that touched our lives and endeared themselves to us; but, without detail, and in addition to those I've already mentioned, among them surely must be (Go ahead, name them all!): Lavina Atkinson, Ginny Barrett, Gladys Booher, Dick Broback, Helen Bruton, Dale & Margaret Buettgenback (and their son, Don), Peggy Champlain (she of the endless smile and cheery greeting!), Ella Chen, Art Corey, Ruth Doyle, Pres & Myrtle Drew, Joy Guerber (and the girls, Serena and Rachel), Helen Guido, Beverly Haasch, John Hooper, Charlie & Ruth Kavanagh, Kathleen Kettering, Bruce & Barbara Kirkbride, sweet, sweet Else Kullmer (and all her cookies at Christmastime!), "Monty" Montgomery, DeWayne & Bertha Moore, Ruth Nelson, Wells & Cookie Potter, Berba Proffitt, Byron & Sylvia Roberts, Geri States, Kennon States (and her daughter, Louisa), Eleanor Thomas, Margaret Touchstone, Merrill Warne, Doug & Lisa Webb (and their entire brood!), Ruth Wenaas, Larry & Evelyn Wright, Ted & Naomi Youngdoff...and last, but never least, Bryant & Harriet Zimmerman. And, yes, I've shamelessly gone alphabetically through one of the old photo directories -- but that's simply one more reason never to throw them away! They are filled with wonderful memories of wonderful people who have shaped our lives and whom we will never forget. With them we are the church.*

*We have been blessed; and we now have become the shoulders upon which the next generation will stand. May we be worthy of such a legacy. May you have a wonderful centennial celebration!*

*In the cause of **shalom**...always,*

***Rev. Kathryn Everett, served as Associate Pastor from 1988-1992. She Writes:***

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*I regret that I could not be with you today and say "hello" in person, but I'm all the way up here in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and I have to be here this Sunday. At the end of the month I will be retiring after 20 years of ministry. What will I do? I have 7 grandchildren. You were my first appointment and mentored me well. I have many fine memories. I remember the offices went on computer while I was there. The office manager/secretary was Peggy Champlain, an amazing, highly competent, fun, wise and gracious person. At 71 she was sure she could do it all faster on her typewriter, but it was only a couple of months before she was doing everything by computer. Sometimes she said she missed going upstairs, donning her orange jumpsuit and running the newsletter or bulletin on the old off-set printer—even on very hot days. It was a break from the phones, some alone time in the midst of that very busy office. I remember the huge authentic Mexican dinners that were put on by a Mexican woman and her family. They made a lot of money for the church. She started the day before and cooked all day. I can see that family in my mind's eye but can't call up their names, started with a B. The mother taught Sunday School for many years and raised amazing children. I remember the Women's Spiritual Growth Group that studied books, shared our lives, prayed together, got silly and laughed a lot. I understand the group continued after I left. I think that's a good sign when a group isn't that dependent on the pastor but has a life of its own. I remember the Christmas program we put on one year, with the stage as the Innkeeper's table, Don Cunningham was the Innkeeper. It was a dinner and between scenes we ate a somewhat authentic Jewish meal. The kids from the afterschool program joined in the acting and did some Jewish circle dances coached by Barry, our youth director. And at the end, we all went outside to see the live baby in a stable with Mary and Joseph and the animals.*

*I could go on and on about the people and my experiences with them but there's not enough time. Just know that I send my love and greetings.*

*May God bless you into the next 100 years!*

***Rev. Don Cunningham Served from 1989- 1998. He writes:***

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*Congratulations to you as you celebrate your first 100 years!*

*Thanks for your invitation to join in the celebration! We regret that we will not be able to be present in body. Our current congregation, Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda, is experiencing a change in pastoral leadership. Lillian is vice-chair of Staff Parish Relations. Sunday, June 8, we will be in a Special Church Conference to consider and approve the compensation package for the incoming pastor. We, and Lil especially, needs to be present.*

*We remember you with great fondness. We had a wonderful nine years with all of you. We remember so many great moments--the monthly Family Worship filling the Sanctuary; the Candlelight Christmas eve services ending with singing Joy to The World on the front steps at Midnight with candles flickering in the wind; visits from St. Nicholas, Abe Lincoln, and King David; the development of Stephen Ministry; and so much more!*