

# God's work shows among you

**S**hirley and I have been here at UPC for one week as I write this column for the UPC Times. What a week this has been for us! We have met many of you in the church for the first time and we have had reunions with friends from the years we were both here at UPC

We have experienced such a warm and generous welcome to your fellowship that we feel at home

We have three children and two of them, our daughter Anne who lives here and our son Jonathon, who is a student in Berkeley, were here for my installation service on Oct. 20. I hope you were able to meet them. Elizabeth, our University of Washington student, is in the Dominican Republic during this quarter.

I said it on my first Sunday in the pulpit and I'll say it again: "I have seen the signs of God's work in and among you already." Let me share three of these signs that stand out for



**From Your Pastor**  
*by Earl F. Palmer*

me right now.

1) You are a church that is clearly and intentionally focused upon the centrality of Jesus Christ. I have felt this sense of clear prioritycenteredness at each staff meeting and Session meeting I have attended. It was wonderfully present in the four worship services this past Sunday in each prayer, song and anthem.

2) You care about each other. There is a practical warmth in this fellowship and Shirley and I have discovered it in the

stories we have heard of people reaching out to people. In his Sunday morning witness Tim shared about the dinners you have provided for his family. And I learned of a young man struggling with both salary loss and physical injury who has been surrounded by friends who are helping to keep his salary going.

I see this in the ministry and fellowship groups in the church. My very first lunch here was with the Keenagers and I certainly felt God's warmth there.

3) You are a church where people affirm each other in taking healthy risks for the sake of the gospel and for the opportunity for ministry with people. There is a contagious boldness about UPC that I have already experienced in just one week.

I am grateful for these three signs of God's blessings here and I want to join up with them in their continuation and growth in the years ahead.