

"The children of Mendocino wish the children of the world health and happiness..." Emmy Lou Packard

Mendocino was a challenging call for Rev. David Ng, living and working among the old timers, new residents, artists, hippies, and just about every type of person imaginable in this small but colorful town.

In 1964, Dave invited artists to paint Christmas scenes on plastic sheets or to paint directly on the inside windows of the social hall, Preston Hall. These paintings would be the church's Christmas gift to all who drove or walked along the main street.

Emmy Lou Packard lived across the street from the church. Although not a member, she appreciated the pastor reaching out to her and her family, and to the artists of the community. Dave believed reaching out to non-church people was a valid part of ministry. Emmy Lou wanted to give the church a permanent piece of art. She painted the people of the church school and incorporated the pastor and his family in her painting. She also included her block print, "Peace is a human right". She also included her block print, "Peace is a human right". Emmy Lou added a letter in the painting: "The children of Mendocino wish the children of the world health and happiness. Christmas 1964". The original painting hangs in Preston Hall, Mendocino, California.

Emmy Lou and Pastor Dave Ng had a common stand; they spoke out against the war in Vietnam. It was not easy to be a young pastor in the 1960's preaching social justice to a conservative congregation. At the year-end report for 1963, Dave said, "Basically, our church exists for mission....Our church must move ahead.....We must continue to stand for justice and equality and human values. "

Based on letters from Irene Ng—Special thanks to MPC Historian Ginny Wade for this resource.

Note:

Emmy Lou Packard was instrumental in saving the Mendocino Headlands. She lived in a house across the street from the Mendocino Presbyterian Church, which became the Mendocino Village Inn, and currently is the Didjeridoo Dreamtime Inn and Meditation Center. She built a studio behind her house that is now the restaurant 955 Ukiah.



"The years Emmy Lou has lived have enriched her pictorial language but have not destroyed in this fine painter of today...the precious qualities of the child I met in Mexico thirteen years ago." Diego Rivera, 1941

