

# THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2022

Volume LXII Number 2

## A New Song

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

*"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry... He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord."*

- Psalm 40:1,3

True joy finds its source and inspiration in God. However, too often it seems that I want God to sing *my* song, to follow along

with my own plans, rather than replace my plans with a "new song" of God's design.



What kind of a "new song" do you want to see in the coming months? The

end of Covid, right? Unfortunately, scientists are saying that Covid can't be eradicated or conquered like Smallpox has been, but it may become more like other

viruses and diseases that we'll need to learn to live with.

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## LET'S GROW!

### Reserve Your Plot in Our Community Garden!

Calling all gardeners!

Spring is on the horizon, so it's time to think about getting your plot ready in our community garden.

To start a plot or continue with an existing plot, contact Felice Risling or leave your information at the church office.

The cost is \$25.00 per season for 8'x4' or \$20 for 4'x6' raised bed filled with soil plus a timed drip system.

**This is a great teaching experience for children or grandchildren!**



## **Pastor Keith L. DeVries Writes: "Sing a New Song"**

CPC is entering into a new era of worship and praise as **Randy Benfield** has ended his tenure with us after 26+ years. On February 20, Randy's last Sunday as CPC's Director of Music, I preached a sermon based on selections from Psalms 146-150, reflecting upon our mandate to worship and praise the Lord, and expressing gratitude to Randy for his faithful and wonderful leadership as our Director of Music for all these years. I share a portion of that message with you here:

"Over the years CPC has been blessed with excellent musical leadership and talent that has guided our worship experience, focusing primarily on two areas, traditional and contemporary. Today is a very good example of the traditional style we have been blessed with over the years led by **Randy Benfield** and **Trina Spivack**. Randy's departure as our Director of Music will undoubtedly leave a void that we may not be able to fill, but nonetheless, our charge remains the same as God's people: to praise the Lord, to sing a new song, using every resource that is available to us.

"The mandate to worship, to praise the Lord with every breath, is to understand praise



CPC said farewell and thank you to **Randy Benfield** on February 20 as he ended his tenure as CPC's Director of Music

***"The psalmist reminds us that it is not necessarily important how we worship, but that we worship, and Randy has been instrumental in making sure that we worship!"***

and worship as the ultimate expression of loving God, and that our praise is not about us, but always about God!

"Today we recognize Randy Benfield, who has faithfully provided musical leadership CPC. Thank you for making beautiful music of praise in our midst, thank you for joining with for more than a quarter century, and thank

you for including so many different instruments in worship, for directing voices of praise, young and old, for directing an orchestra, working with soloists and small ensembles, and for sharing your immense talents with this family of faith. I know you will keep sharing those talents with others; I know you will continue to be a blessing to others as you have been such a blessing to all of us, and I trust that you will keep praising the Lord with your whole being and with every breath you take.

*We call all people to praise the Lord:*

*those who preach to proclaim God's love;*

*those who sing to glorify God's name;*

*those who can shout or whistle or write or paint*

*or dance or play musical instruments*

*or pound on drums or ring bells to join in celebrating*

*the majesty of our great and loving God.*

*-Psalms Now Leslie Brandt*

The psalmist reminds us that it is not necessarily important how we worship, but that we worship, and Randy has been instrumental in making sure that we worship!"

With gratitude in my heart,

*Pastor Keith*

## ... A New Song ...

(Continued from page 1)

Does that thought bring fear or feelings of being out of control? I think these past two years have brought those feelings to all of us! Yet, we actually can take hope in the future and not live in fear. It comes down to our attitude. Brian Tracy puts it very well: "You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control your attitude toward what happens to you, and in that, you will be mastering change rather than allowing it to master you."

With any kind of challeng-



es that life may bring, we can live in fear and be angry about all the changes in "life as we once knew it" or we can resolve to put everything in God's hands. If we "give it to God," God promises that ultimately, good will come out of it. As Eugene Peterson in *The Message* writes, "That's why we can be so sure that every detail in

our lives of love for God is worked into something good." (Romans 8:28) The important point is that it is *in our lives of love for God*, following God's song, that good will happen. Giving up trying to control everything and changing our attitude so that what we want and work for is what God wants, is key. And yes, that can be so very difficult!

It can also be extremely difficult to think of singing a song of praise when you are going through great suffering! Even when your faith is strong, fear, uncertainty, and loss make singing God's song challenging. There are definitely no easy answers. Yet, with time, God will put new words in the song you're singing until it becomes God's song, a hymn of praise, even in your pain.

If you think you might need help changing your attitude or in giving up control to God, or if your life seems overwhelming, talking with a Stephen Minister can play an important role. Stephen Ministers have been trained to listen confidentially to your troubles and heartaches and help you figure out what your best course of action may be. A Stephen Minister talks with you for about an hour a week for as long as you need them. For more information, contact any of the Stephen Leaders: **John Wallace, Mary Thomas, Kelly Holland, or Misty Dunn.**

The graphic features a close-up photograph of a person's forehead with a smudge of grey ash. Overlaid on the left side is the text "Ash Wednesday Worship" in a large, white, stylized font with a black outline. Below this, the date and time "March 2 @ 7:00 p.m." are written in a bold purple font, followed by "In Person and Livestream" in a smaller purple font. At the bottom, a purple text box contains the following information: "This contemplative service begins the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes and the Lord's Supper. Childcare is provided."/>

**Ash  
Wednesday  
Worship**

**March 2 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
In Person and Livestream

This contemplative service begins the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes and the Lord's Supper.  
Childcare is provided.

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# Scuttlebutt

*News from CPC's Mariner Ships*

## Clipper Ship

### Companionship

On Saturday, February 5, several Companionshipers met on Zoom for our monthly meeting. Our assignment for February was to watch the movie

"Chocolat." After a brief business meeting, we "met" with Peggy Krong who led us in a discussion of the movie based on the book of the same name.

The book was written by an English woman, Joanne Harris; the film was directed by Lasse Holmstrom, a Swedish director, and filmed in the Burgundy district of France. Juliette Binoche plays Vianne, a single mother who arrives in a small town with her six-year-old daughter Anouk and opens a chocolate shop ... during Lent! The town, especially the mayor played by Arthur Molina, is scandalized but several townspeople, including Judi Dench and Lena Olin, are "rescued" by Vianne and her wise ways.

Peggy pointed out several interesting points: it's a Catholic town, but the church has no

icons usually found in a Catholic church, and a high pulpit usually found in Calvinistic churches. We also talked about the changes in the lives of the people by the end of the movie. Thank you, Peggy, it was a very interesting and en-

joyable discussion!

Our brief business meeting included a discussion of Covid's effect on our members' families and friends.

**Randy Benfield** has resigned. His fi-

nal Sunday service will be on February 20.

March 19: **Chris Studer** and his contemporary worship team from Santa Rosa First Presbyterian Church will perform a concert at CPC. The concert will be at 4:00 p.m. followed by a reception at 5:00 p.m.. Tickets will be sold, and the funds will be used to compensate the musicians and to donate to HART and the CPC Centennial committee. **Barbara Farley** pointed out that Supper on Saturday is the same evening. Her committee will provide dinner for Chris and his team and will be reimbursed from the ticket sales. **Dave Studer** will send every-

one 10 tickets to sell if we think of friends, family, and church members who might be interested in attending the concert. Tickets will also be available in the church office.

Companionship received an invitation from **Jan Olsen** to join the Nautilus ship for a presentation on the aging process including information that can help us make decisions about our future. We will try to incorporate our September plans to include the Nautilus ship too.

March 5 is our next Companionship meeting: Trivia Night at the **Dave and Chris Beeby's** with host Bill Silveira. More details to follow.

Prayer concerns: **Terry Barto** is at home recovering from hip replacement surgery. Her sister is staying with her to help but only for a week or so. **Nancy Studer** suggested cards and notes would be appreciated. **Marti Wallace** is also facing surgery this month.

**Nancy Studer** shared an Upper Room essay on light: how important it is, how often it's referred to in the Bible, and ended with this question: How can I reflect the light of Jesus today?

## Friendship

## Holy Scow

*(Continued on page 5)*



# ... More Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 4)

## Lifeboat

## Nautilus

Nautilus celebrated Valentine's Day early in the CPC parlor — our new favorite berth. We started with a light dinner of salads, pasta, and that church potluck standby, deviled eggs, followed by "Valentine Bingo," which required considerable descriptive skills on the part of the caller, **Brenda**

**Mock**, since pictures and drawings were used instead of letters and numbers. There were many prizes, and only a few left empty-handed.

However, for those there were extra supplies of large heart-shaped cookies to decorate individually with red or white frosting. We had a great time playing, visiting, and, of course, eating. A short business meeting followed where we discussed

possible schedule changes, our cargo, and our contribution to the Planting Seeds of Faith Auction, which we hope will happen this year. Hurrah!



*Nautilus ship welcomed three new members, **Louissette Asmar**, **Liliane Morin**, and **Kathie Goheen** to their Valentine's Day celebration which included delicious food, fun games, and fellowship for all.*

Fourteen came to the party, including our "newbies" **Liliane Morin**, **Louissette Asmar**, and **Kathie Goheen**. Skippers **Brenda Mock** and **Jan Olson** were applauded for their great

work in putting the party together, as well as the year's schedule of events.

Next month, we'll work on our cargo, the planter boxes in the courtyards rain or shine — in fact rain would be preferred! Then a trip to the new science museum in April. Come and join in the work and fun!

## Skipjacks

Valentine's Day came a little early for the twelve Skipjacks who gathered in Serritella's banquet room. First Mate **Diane Instness** set the theme with heart shaped chocolates on red and pink napkins, and red and white wines "on her." Between ordering and dining, the jovial group continued the festive theme with an exchange of funny Valentine cards from their Secret Pals. There even was a door prize, won by **Carolee Roach** whose birthdate was closest to "14." **Bob Beckert**, Skipper for February, gamely conducted a business meeting among the din of other diners. **Diane Instness** volunteered to be our representative to the Mariners who are interested in participating in the upcoming CPC Centennial. Former member **Shirley Weber's** memorial service was announced for February 5. **Margo Scandella** read a letter from Sacramento Food

(Continued on page 6)

## ... More Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 5)

Bank thanking us for our donation to the Run to Feed the Hungry. The March meeting will be led by the next Skipper, **Carolyn Biggers**, and the program is TBA. Our sympathy goes out to **Jan Olsen** on the loss of her constant companion and beloved dog, Tibby.



## In Our CPC Family



Please lift up in prayer these members of our church family who have recently lost loved ones:

- ✠ **Marie Segur** and family on the loss of her husband, **Dave Segur** on February 3.
- ✠ **Lynette Ledesma** and **Claire & Chloe Aretsky** and family on the loss of their husband and father, **Mike Aretsky** on January 28.

## A Note of Thanks

Dear CPC Family,



Thank you for all of the cards, notes, and wonderful remembrances of our dear Dave. We are grateful for all at CPC.

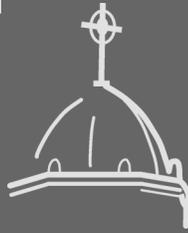
*Marie Segur*



# Our Mission

*Responding to God's love through Jesus Christ, we:*

- *Welcome all*
- *Nurture relationships*
- *Grow in faith together*
- *Connect with and serve our community and the world*



# Contact Us



### by phone:

CPC Office	916-486-9081
Stephen Ministry	916-486-0604
Food Closet	916-483-9232

To leave a voice mail message for a staff person when the office is closed, dial 916-486-9081. When the machine answers your call, dial the person's extension.

Keith DeVries	203	Paul Shultz	205
Ivan Herman	202	Karen Gray	201
Julie Ueltzen	200	Lisa Torgerson	204
Ron Morris	206		

### via e-mail:

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Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Lisa Torgerson	lisa@carmichaelpres.org

Or link to email through our website: [www.carmichaelpres.org](http://www.carmichaelpres.org)

# Our CPC Staff

Remembering that the members of Carmichael Presbyterian Church are the ministers and missionaries of our faith community, our Pastoral Staff and Support Team provide leadership and specialized ministries.

**The Rev. Keith L. DeVries**

**The Rev. Ivan N. Herman**

**Trina Spivack,**  
Accompanist

**Tammy Sigl,**  
Interim Bell Choir Director

**Lisa Torgerson,**  
Children's Ministry Director

**Paul & Mary Camozzi,**  
Childcare Providers

**Karen Gray,**  
Pastors' Secretary

**Julie Ueltzen,**  
Church Secretary

**Paul Shultz,**  
Financial Administrator

**Ron Morris,**  
Maintenance Manager

**Christian Bolen,**  
Custodian

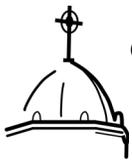
**Lisa Levering,**  
Wedding Coordinator

## MISSION BELL DEADLINES

**10TH OF EACH MONTH  
FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE**

Submit articles to: Amy Lerseth, *Mission Bell* Editor  
at [amylerseth@buzzoates.com](mailto:amylerseth@buzzoates.com)





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# Sundays @ CPC

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## Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Visit and enjoy a cup of coffee in McMillen Hall before and after worship services.



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## In-Person & Live Stream Worship 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

A blend of traditional and contemporary music styles provide an opportunity to bring new life to the Word. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/c/carmichaelpres> or search for "carmichaelpres" on the YouTube app or your Smart TV. Plus, watch recordings of past worship services any time.



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## Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children pre-K through 5th grade resumes March 6. Children are welcome and encouraged to attend worship and will be dismissed to their class following the pastor's Time for Young People.

