



# THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2022

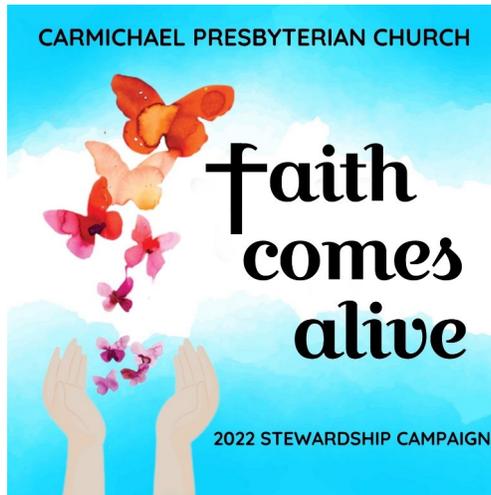
Volume LXII Number 10

## Faith Comes Alive 2023 Stewardship Campaign

by Allison Cagley

*“We will work with each other. We will work side by side.”*

Music is central to my faith journey. I’m sure you have favorite hymns and praise songs that carry you through good times and bad.



This month, I’ve selected “They’ll Know We are Christians by our Love” which I fondly remember singing in high school and on youth church retreats.

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by  
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## A Bit of Centennial History

by Karen Orlando

The 1920’s were prosperous in Carmichael, but as the 20’s came to a close, times were about to change. Roberta Gibbons Oldham, a daughter of one of the church’s founding families remembered: “I had ridden our horse to my piano lesson. When I returned home, mother said, ‘The Stock Market crashed today.’ I had no idea what that meant. This was like the day President Kennedy was killed. Eve-

rybody remembers where he was when we heard the news. We soon learned the full impact of the depression. It was horrible.”

A young Carmichael School student remembered: “... the price of watermelons was so low that it



*Photo courtesy of Betty Schei*  
The Gibbons children, including Roberta Gibbons Oldham (far right) c. 1930.

didn’t cover the cost to pick them. Acres were left on the Deterding Ranch to rot in the fields. But many of them didn’t rot because we kids would pick up a giant melon, reach in and pull out the heart...then go on  
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## ... Centennial History ...

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to the next.

A glance at the church's bank balance in the 1933-34 budget attests to the strained fiscal affairs of the time. The

bank balance was \$14.39. In today's dollars that's roughly \$325.00. The financial hardship was magnified when Fred Hertzog agreed to become custodian for \$5 a month if there was money to pay him. To put this in perspective, the salary of Reverend Barkman in 1930 was \$2,000.00 per annum. One veteran

elder remarked wryly, "We had a champagne appetite but only a beer pocketbook."

Adding to the worry of those early 1930's, one of the most significant events for Carmichael was the freeze of 1932. The freeze hit in the darkest period of the Great Depression at a time when many fruit growers had barely been able to weather the disastrous economy. For several days, the temperature dropped to 18 degrees. The 1932 freeze wiped-out the community as a major producer of citrus in California. At the church, meanwhile, pipes froze, then broke, and thawed. For six days water ran into the

basement before it was discovered. When it was found, the piano was floating, and hymn books bobbed all over like boats seeking a landing.

Then once again in 1939



*Photo courtesy of Betty Schei*

*When watermelon grown on this Carmichael farm could not be sold, locals ate it rather than leave it to rot.*

disaster struck the church that was fighting to stay alive. On the evening of January 29, 1939, an apparently self-generated gas exploded in the furnace in the basement of the church, blowing open the fire doors and threatening to destroy the building. However, the fire was discovered early and extinguished without any serious damage, only the basement badly blackened by coal smoke and soot.

Yet, if withstanding the depression, a devastating freeze, and a potentially disastrous fire weren't enough, the fledgling Carmichael Community Church faced a schism in 1929-30 considered the stormiest

episode of its brief history. Remember that despite the affiliation with the Presbyterian church, the congregation included a broad spectrum of the community with equally

broad beliefs and theological interpretations. The simplistic explanation is that a pastor, Samuel Holsinger, had a narrow, conservative, fundamentalist stance.

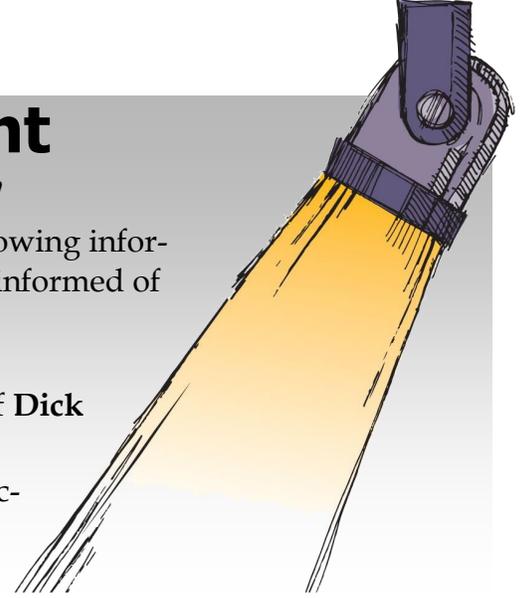
With differing opinions in theology, at a church meeting during the controversy, Holsinger walked down the aisle and exclaimed, "Christ will never be in this church again." The Presbytery requested Holsinger modify his theological views and end certain relationships.

Holsinger replied that he lived according to the Bible and could not abide by a man-made organization. Ultimately, Reverend Holsinger and Carmichael Community Church parted ways. The congregation of 94 members was almost evenly divided on the issue. Eventually, Reverend Holsinger founded what would become Carmichael Bible Church. A great deal of troubled soul-searching and tears marked the time. However, moderation and denominational ties prevailed over fundamentalism and autonomy.

As the decade of the Depression ended, the church,  
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# Session Spotlight

by Linda Hatch, Clerk of Session



Your session held a regular meeting on September 27. The following information is excerpted from the minutes of that meeting to keep you informed of your session's activities.

## Action Items:

- The motion was made and carried to receive the resignations of **Dick and Charlotte Frink** as Deacons.
- The motion was made and carried to elect **Kathy Lewin** as a second Assistant clerk of Session.
- The motion was made and carried to receive the financial report for August, 2022. The highlights are as follows:

<u>General Fund Report</u>		<u>21st Century Report</u>	
Income August 2022	\$63503.60	Income August 2022	\$16.08
Income YTD	591,889.51	Income YTD	4,820.77
Expense August 2022	64,464.37		
Expense YTD	526,085.49		
<u>Parking Lot Fund</u>			
	\$228,506.57		

- The motion was and carried to approve time off for service to the larger church for **Pastor Ivan Herman**, on Sunday, September 25 (1 day) to preach at Davis Community Church.
- The motion was made and carried to approve study leave for **Pastor Ivan Herman**, October 10-12 (3 days) to attend the Pastors' Retreat at Zephyr Point.

## Information items:

- A new lease agreement for the Presbytery is ready for approval.
- The 2023 budget process is under way. **Allison Cagley** will be asking for input from the divisions.
- The stewardship campaign will be called Faith Comes Alive – celebrate the past and look forward to the future. It will launch on October 17 and conclude November 20.
- Youth Coordinator position – the job description has been reviewed and consideration is being given to how to fund it. Job advertising has begun.

In addition, **Pastor Keith** reported that the Robertson house is now full, with four tenants and a house manager.

## ... Centennial History ...

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like the country, had survived what must have felt like disaster upon disaster. In the Christmas Sunday church bulletin of December 24, 1939, entitled "Worthy of Praise" it stated: "Let us rejoice today! For we are at last free from

debt and the church is on the way to greater advance! God has rewarded us for our faith and has shown His power to work all things for good...May this new joy at our liberation remind us more keenly of Christ who came in the world not to be ministered unto but

minister and give His life a ransom for many!

(These stories and more can be found in *Heritage of Faith, A 75 Year History of Carmichael Presbyterian Church*. Available in the church office for only \$10 for softcover and \$15 for hardcover)