

A Bit of Our Centennial Story

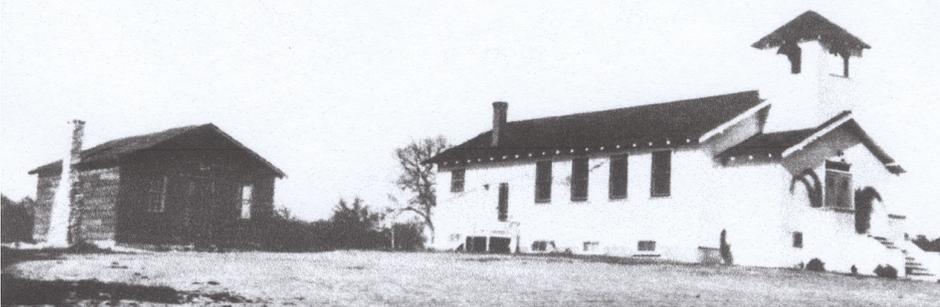
Our Church Building (continued)

by Karen Orlando

With the church site on Marconi Ave. in place from the donation of Mr. Hobbs, the work was on. Notably fund raising had begun. A far cry from our recent Legacy of

big part of the fundraising as well. The Carmichael Ladies Circle raised money playing bridge, holding dinners, and with a series of dances. They raised over \$500.00 with much

ter of a growing, prosperous town. Carmichael would have a communal center besides the school on Sutter Ave. Throughout the summer the people in the community watched the daily building of the church. People helped wherever they could. One young girl remembered sitting in the Gambs house, "looking across the way they were in the throes of putting the frame up in the church." On hot evenings as the Delta breezes began to blow, neighbors would stroll past the church, stopping to see what progress had been made that day.



Stoner Lodge and the original sanctuary of Carmichael Community Church, c. 1927.

Faith campaigns, a door-to-door canvas of the community was held. Of course, the community wasn't as densely populated as it is now. Jim Dickson was one of those who solicited funds for Carmichael Community Church, literally going to every house all the way down to Mission Ave. "There were very few houses and most without money." Barbara McAllister recalled in 1988. "My father gave him a hundred dollars and told him he could not be interested in joining the church as he was involved in Westminster. Jim never forgot that he gave." Having become an affiliate of the Presbyterian Church in 1925, they were able to secure a \$1,400.00 noninterest loan and a \$400.00 grant from the Presbyterian National Board of Mission. Creativity played a

of that money set aside to pay for the concreting of the basement floor.

The site of the new church had been an olive orchard. Except for a few trees removed to dig the basement, the olive orchard remained. Legend has it that due to the hard pan soil, a few of the men had some fun and used dynamite to get that basement dug. Trees or no trees. In the lean years of the depression, the olives were harvested and sold. All of the olive trees in the patios as of 1998 were original trees from the orchard.

This was the first church to be built in the Carmichael Colony. Everyone in the community shared a great sense of pride in the building. The church on the newly paved Marconi Avenue would be a landmark building in the cen-

It was a big day in the community when Clark and Hughes brought the bell from Elk Grove to Carmichael. The bell came from a Methodist church in Elk Grove. People stood and watched, while others grabbed the rope on the jury-rigged pulley to help lift the heavy bell up to the cupola. The joke for years was that the bell still rang a little bit Methodist while being Presbyterian. More good fortune landed upon our little church as they were able to purchase pews, as well as the pulpit furniture, from Westminster Church for \$344.00. Later, when the time came to build a lodge for the Scouts, the wood came from a Buster Keaton

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movie being filmed on the Sacramento River. They had several log cabins made of pine slabs with the bark still on. They were persuaded to let the church have sufficient slabs to build the scout lodge. As the days grew near to the completion of the church building, the building committee suggested that a silver-grey colored paint be used in the interior of the church. With paint, pews, and a bell to ring the community into worship, the choir practiced, and a dedication was planned.

With great pride from members to the community, the Carmichael church building was finally finished. On a beautiful warm sunny afternoon, Sunday, October 23rd, 1927, the church, beautifully decorated with roses, zinnias, and chrysanthemums, was dedicated. The bell began to ring tolling out the arrival of a church in Carmichael Colony. "Crowded to capacity, the church was filled with people of the community, adjoining communities and people from Sacramento." Late arrivals continuing to crowd into the new sanctuary claimed they heard the bells ringing as far away as Mission Ave. Under the leadership of Roy Sullivan, the choir sang - "Rock of Ages," "Give," and "Come, At Times, A Stillness." A male quartet sang an original song

aptly named, "Dedication." The quality of the music was such that many people came to church just to hear the choir. The *Fair Oaks Progress* reported that the dedication of the Carmichael Community Church represented: "...the spiritual work of a community, culminating the efforts of

five years..." In truth, the spirit of God had been at work for more than five years. It had started with the three mothers in 1918 wanting a Sunday School for their children.

Source: *Heritage of Faith: A 75-Year History of Carmichael Presbyterian Church*

Following in the Footsteps of Our Founders

\$100 for 100 Years of Ministry

Just like Mr. Hobbs, Jim Dickson, Barbara McAllister and many others who contributed their time and treasure to build our first church building in 1927, we are called to share our time and treasure.

Our CPC Centennial committee is busy finalizing a year's worth of events and outreach to celebrate our legacy of 100 years in this community. Our church family loves getting together to share memories, good food, and fun fellowship so 2023 will bring plenty of opportunities for all of us.

Earlier this year, we launched our CPC Centennial plans and campaign. Thanks to individuals stepping up to contribute as well as funds raised at the concert presented by Chris Studer and his band, we have about \$21,000. These funds will help us create our centennial commemorative book and underwrite some of the events we have planned. In order to make 2023 a truly memorable year, we are asking for your support to help us reach over \$25,000.

Would you kindly consider following in the footsteps of our founders with a gift of \$100 – just \$1 for every one of our 100 years of ministry?

You can go to <https://carmichaelpres.org/giving/donate/> Please join in the footsteps of Mr. Hobbs, Jim Dickson and Barbara McAllister and donate today.

Thank you!