

Happy 100th Anniversary from the Women Who Baked the Cake and Lit the Candles

by Carolyn McGregor, Moderator, Presbyterian Women

Women's Circle, Women's Council, Presbyterian Women; all women who work to uplift the Church are considered Presbyterian Women even if they do not belong to a formal Circle. These Carmichael Community Church/ Carmichael Presbyterian Church women's organizations have been led for 99 years by smart, talented, and resourceful women.

On September 10, 1924, 13 women gathered together as the Women's Circle (some called it the Ladies' Circle) with the stated

purpose of "finding ways and means to build a church." The original constitution stated "The object of the Circle shall be united effort to the promotion of self-culture, sociability, community betterment and higher spirituality among its members." Although denied an equal partnership in the governance of the church they forged ahead with their mission.

The Mmes. (insert their husbands' names here) got busy and raised money to build the

church and support mission. They fashioned a quilt to raffle, held teas and fashion shows, organized fiestas, held luncheons with cookbook sales, and rummage sales – any activity that would be attended by members of the congregation and community.



The women of Carmichael Presbyterian Church have a long history of supporting the church and community through leadership and service.

There are no records of their exact expenditures in those early years but we do have a record of later outlays. Some of the most important were to finance the moving and enlarging of the old sanctuary to the rear of the west wing to make way for the new sanctuary being built, purchase of the Philip stained glass Clerestory window and the Nativity stained glass window in the Chancel, the purchase of floor tiles, stoves, ovens, and many other much needed kitchen items.

Supporting the Christian Education Department was of great importance which they did with time and talent. When they saw a need within the Church they found a way to fill it.

Over time women became equal partners, recognized with

their own first names, in the governance of the church with all serving positions at CPC open to them. As I looked around the room at the very successful 100 year Centennial kickoff I saw the women who planned the event, brought it into being, kept order in the kitchen, hosted the

history tables, and spoke from the podium.

I have been blessed to have known so many of the women who have served CCC/CPC, both in offices and quietly working in the background. Going forward into the next one hundred years, the women of Carmichael Presbyterian Church will continue to honor the legacies of those women who have gone before us and will continue to build on the foundations they laid.