



# 2023 Annual Report

Carmichael Presbyterian Church  
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# 2023 Session

Mary MacDonald, Clerk of Session

The Session of Carmichael Presbyterian Church serves as the governing body of the local church. As guided by the current Bylaws, the Session is composed of the Pastor (Minister of the Word and Sacrament) who serves as Moderator, the Associate Pastor (Minister of the Word and Sacrament), fifteen Ruling Elders elected annually by the congregation to serve three-year terms on a rotating basis and the Clerk of Session who also serves as the Secretary of the Congregation.

The Session is organized as a unicameral system which is a single board of church administration. It is responsible for the mission and government of the Congregation. The Session met during 2023 for eleven regular meetings and three special meetings. Session Highlights were published in the church newsletter, *The Mission Bell*.

A quorum of Ruling Elders attended the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. CPC Pastors (Two Teaching Elders) and up to four Ruling Elders represented the Congregation at four Stated Meetings of the North Central California Presbytery via Zoom.

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Ruling, and Deacons Elders who served on other governing bodies of the church in 2023 included:

- Ruling Elder Doris Beckert, Resource Center
- Ruling Elder Mary MacDonald, Chair, Pastoral Vitality of Vitality in Ministry Committee
- Ruling Elder Marsha Cook, Mission Support Committee
- Deacon Whitney MacLean, New Ministry Initiative Committee

## 2023 Members of Session

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Clint Dahlke Tracey Dron Hal Holland Rae-Nani Stokes	Maria Brow Laura Janik Lynette Ledesma* Bill Pace Anne Parker Terryl Summers* Bob Curtis	Allison Cagley David Mathews Lara Moborez ElizaBeth Phillips Kathy Phillips	Rebecca Cameron Rebecca Parker Terry Sakuda Julie Ueltzen

\*Resigned

## 2023 Officers of Session

- The Reverend Keith L. DeVries, Moderator
- The Reverend Ivan N. Herman, Associate Pastor
- Ruling Elder Mary MacDonald, Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Congregation
- Ruling Elder David Studer, President of the Corporation
- Ruling Elder Tim Farley, Treasurer of the Congregation
- Ruling Elder Sharon MacLean, Assistant Clerk

**2023 Divisions of Session** (Beginning June 1, 2023)

**Church Administration**

Laura Janik, Chair  
 Bill Pace  
 Allison Cagley

**Education**

Rebecca Cameron, Chair

**Fellowship & Nurture**

Lara Moborez, Chair  
 Maria Brow

**Mission**

Dave Mathews, Chair  
 Bob Curtis  
 Rebecca Parker

**Worship**

Kathy Phillips, Chair  
 Terry Sakuda

**Membership & Outreach**

Anne Parker, Chair  
 Julie Ueltzen

**Nominating Committee**

ElizaBeth Phillips, Moderator

**2023 Board of Deacons**

**Officers**

Moderator: Deb Sweetman  
 Vice-Moderator: Lillian Janik  
 Secretary: Bette Johnson

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Bonnie Hard	Thamsyne Brown*	Debbie Cameron	Christina Tomlinson
Jennifer Auld	Marsha Cook	Charlotte Frink*	Gannon Grace
Lisa Benadom*	Misty Dunn	Dick Frink*	Jami McCray
Ernie Chard	Bette Johnson	Carol Honnold	Leon Wartinger
Lillian Janik	Janet Olson	Lillian Janik	Patty Kepner
Barbara Laughton	Deb Sweetman	Whitney MacLean	
Kathy Lewin	Mary Thomas	Priscilla Mauerman	
Terry Sakuda	John Wallace	Erin Pace	
		Dani Romais	
		Caron Treon	

\* Resigned

## **2023 Journey to the Church Triumphant**

With sadness of heart we have said “good-bye” to some of our members who were taken in death. We met to affirm our faith, celebrate the hope of the Resurrection, and commit each to the care and keeping of our Lord until such day as we shall be reunited in the presence of Christ. We give thanks to God for having shared in the lives of the following people:

***Donna Barkley, January 5***

***Bill Ballantine, January 6***

***Trudy Carney, February 1***

***Raymelle King, February 11***

***Polly Hunt, February 20***

***Mary Buehler, May 18***

***Ginny Rodgers, July 23***

***Jack Shearer, September 10***

***Joan Oakley, October 16***

***Jean Brown, October 31***

# 2023 Statistical Report

Mary MacDonald, Clerk

## Membership Roll

Active Members December 31, 2022 493

Gains

**Total Gains 12**

Losses

Certificate of Transfer 0

Death 10

Other 82

**Total Losses -92**

**Active Members, December 31, 2023 413**

Female Members 266

Male Members 144

Non-Binary/Genderqueer 3

Child Baptism 0

Adult Baptism 2

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under 6

Elementary School (K-5<sup>th</sup>) 23

Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) 19

High School (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) 37

## Other Statistics

Average Sunday Worship Service Attendance 263 which includes in-person and live-stream.

Weddings Officiated by our Pastors: 3

Graveside and Memorial Services

Members: 9

Non-Members: 5

Communion Services 15

Communion Services to Homebound 0

# 2023 Staff Reports

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

## *2023—What a year this has been...*

2023 was the year of Centennial celebrations! We began our Centennial kick-off in January by viewing scrapbooks and memorabilia from our last one hundred years and welcoming Ryan MacLean as the first in a long list of centennial guest preachers. A recital, potluck, quilt dedication, letters from past pastors, and more marked the countdown to the Centennial Gala Weekend, December 1-3. We celebrated well, with a reception and book signing on Friday evening, a concert featuring current and former CPC musicians, and then the Sunday Centennial worship service with guest preacher Pamela Jacobi Starbuck, followed by a luncheon and program in McMillen Hall. During the gala luncheon, I was honored to have the Gathering Place renamed the “DeVries Gathering Place.” Our final centennial event was worship on December 31, with guest preacher Mark Studer and guest music leader, Chris Studer. It was a fitting conclusion to an amazing year of glorifying God and celebrating our one-hundred-year journey of faithfulness to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For a much more detailed review of the past year, pick up a copy of *“Stories of Faith—Carmichael Presbyterian Church at 100,”* written and edited by Susan Herman. On page 300, you will find in the appendix, a detailed calendar of centennial celebrations for the entire year. I extend my gratitude to the Centennial Committee: Susan Herman, Allison Cagley, Brenda Mock, Kathy Phillips, Kathy Lewin, Sharon MacLean, Monica Dahlberg, Lillian Janik, and Karen Orlando for bringing to life a vision for our centennial celebrations that began five years ago. Thank you not only to the committee, but to all the members and friends of CPC who contributed to and prayed for these many celebrations in 2023.

This past year also brought with it the devastation and grief of the passing of our oldest child, Kristel Lynn DeVries in October. The outpouring of your love and grace has been overwhelming and we are profoundly grateful. Through your words of comfort and silent support, through tears and hugs, you have enabled us to navigate this season of tremendous grief. Kristel’s smile brought tremendous joy and love to all who met her as she exited this world far too soon. Her life touched so many others as witnessed at her memorial service, and Jenny and I will forever be grateful that God blessed us with such a gift and continues to bless us with the gift of our youngest daughter, Kaylan.

I continue to be blessed and find great joy in the ministry we have shared for twenty-two plus years, and give thanks to God for the staff I am privileged to work with. It is a delight to partner with them in serving Jesus Christ and in bearing witness to God’s love as we work with the faithful leadership of this church to enact God’s grace in all that we do. I pray we will be poised to embrace the next one hundred years.

May it be so!

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Keith

## Pastor Ivan N. Herman

The Six Great Ends of the Church:

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.
- The maintenance of divine worship.
- The preservation of the truth.
- The promotion of social righteousness.
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

(PCUSA Book of Order F-1.0304)

I've seen pictures of the wagon roads, citrus orchards, wooden buildings, and olive groves that made up the Carmichael Colony one hundred years ago. It all looked rather dusty. This congregation was planted in a rural setting. Mr. H.A. Hobbs donated the farmland and said, "I haven't been able to make a thing grow on this piece, but maybe a church will grow there."

Rural ministry quickly gave way to suburban ministry: growing community and connecting families together. Social connection was the primary ministry in those first five decades, and the church grew in attendance. Boy Scouts, Sunday School, youth who gathered all summer long to make adobe bricks – we know the community narrative. These are all part of the first fifty years and an ongoing part of this congregation's DNA.

The second 50 years saw a decline in attendance that closely tracked a broader social decline of the mainline Protestant church throughout Europe and North America. What enlivened those years was the rise of direct intervention for people in need and a changing neighborhood and city. When I arrived in 2009, I rather thought I was coming into a suburban ministry setting, but I've come to realize that much of what God is calling this church into is urban ministry: feeding the hungry, giving respite to unhoused neighbors, welcoming the stranger, immigrant, and refugee. Jesus showed compassion by healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, curing leprosy, and even raising the dead. While I don't think we've raised the dead yet, we are providing the essentials for living.

When this church marks its sesquicentennial in 2073 – 150 years, I'll be 96 years old. When I look back at the third act, what will I see? My hope is I will see how we continued to adapt to meet the needs of community and broader society through partnership: *Presbyterians do mission in partnership!* Will we move from direct provision of services to directly addressing the root causes of why people are hungry, unhoused, and unheard? Will we more tightly embrace faith-based social justice activism, public policy advocacy, and the promotion of social righteousness? Jesus healed the brokenness in the city by forgiving the sins of the outcast, befriending the marginalized, and eating with tax collectors, and he also called for justice with the cries of a prophet. We've already been living into this kind of faith – it isn't new. CPC approved the "Commitment to Peacemaking" in 1983, became a Covenant Church of Bread for the World in 1964, and Dr. McMillen marched with MLK in Selma, AL in 1965.

CPC continues to fulfill the great end of promoting social righteousness by embracing the work of a Matthew 25 church: to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty. We commit to do our ministry together in a way that cares for God's creation as an Earth Care Congregation. And we embrace all of God's children, building a more just and inclusive church as we welcome all to worship and leadership without barriers around gender identity or sexual orientation as we have become a part of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.



When the six great ends of the Church were composed in 1910, the Presbyterian Church was concerned about a whole raft of social issues, among them fair wages for workers and child labor. Addressing those issues was the promotion of social righteousness. What issues in these next fifty years will require our attention in order for us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and to exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven in this Carmichael neighborhood and in the wider world?

I thank God for the calling placed upon me through the voice of this congregation to be a part of this vibrant ministry. And I'm grateful for amazing colleagues and partners in ministry. We are blessed to be a blessing.

# 2023 Pastoral & Support Team

The Rev. Keith L. DeVries

The Rev. Ivan N. Herman

Keith Atwater, Director of Music

Rick Schlosser, Organist and Interim Mission Bells Director

Jenny DeVries, Mission Bells Director

Lisa Torgerson, Children's & Youth Ministry Director (through March 2023)

Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director (as of October 2023)

Mary Camozzi, Childcare Provider

Paul Camozzi, Childcare Provider

Karen Gray, Pastors' Secretary

Julie Ueltzen, Church Secretary

Paul Shultz, Financial Administrator

Ron Morris, Maintenance Manager

Christian Bolen, Custodian

Gabe Bisho, Contemporary Worship Pianist

Will Condrey, Contemporary Worship Drummer

Michael Schwab, Contemporary Worship Guitarist

Matthew Major, Contemporary Worship Bassist (through July 2023)

Merlyn Van Regenmorter, Contemporary Worship Bassist (as of August 2023)

Noor Bitar, Michael Gray, Avonlee Janik, Josh Keaney (through August 2023), Bruce MacLean, Steve Parker, and David Stoffel, Audio/Visual Technicians

## Pastors' Secretary

Karen Gray

Like most of CPC, the office staff spent a good part of 2023 working on projects and events celebrating CPC's centennial. It was a blessing to welcome so many guest preachers, musicians, and other CPC alumni throughout the year and to play a small part in the plethora of celebrations!

In July, we replaced the 25+ year old analog phone system. The actual phones were no longer being produced, so we were unable to replace broken handsets. Limited storage in the voicemail system only allowed us to save a few messages. Call quality was getting progressively worse, which made it especially difficult for our Food Closet volunteers to hear callers. Plus, every time we had a substantial rainstorm (or squirrels chewing on the wires), one or more phone lines would stop working.

With encouragement and help from Food Closet leaders Barbara Farley and Andrea Heckenlively, we contracted with ATS and Intermedia to provide a new internet-based system. After several months of the ATS staff looking for workarounds for incorrect wiring and waiting for our internet provider to complete an internet upgrade, we are almost completely up and running! Office staff are enjoying the ability to access phones remotely, to receive emailed transcriptions of voicemail messages, and to have caller ID, all of which have helped us work more efficiently. We are continuing to learn the ins and outs of the new system, which occasionally means hanging up on someone accidentally. Thank you for being patient with us!

Your office staff is here to help however we can – feel free to contact us with questions. If we don't know the answer, we can usually find someone who does.

## **Volunteers:**

### **Offering Counters:**

Bob Bergsten  
Bill Dunn  
Tim Farley  
Carol Jones  
Terry Sakuda  
Len Tozier

### **Office Volunteers:**

Lisa Levering  
Thelma Wever

### ***Mission Bell* Newsletter Staff:**

Amy Lerseth (through April 2023)  
David Gray  
Stephen Gray

## **Maintenance Manager**

Ron Morris

For a brief glimpse into a week at CPC, here are some of the projects that occur on a weekly basis:

- Attend weekly staff meetings
- Purchase cleaning and paper products for the kitchen and bathrooms
- Maintain the HVAC, plumbing and electrical throughout the campus
- Check the campus daily for trash, items out of place, etc.
- Attend Buildings & Grounds meetings
- Supervise and support custodial staff
- Contact subcontractors for repairs when needed
- On-call if needed for emergencies

Some of the larger projects for 2023 included:

- Performed repairs on lights and electrical outlets from frequent vandalism
- Ensured that any problems that interfere in the operation of the church are resolved
- Helped maintain the operation of the Food Closet when needed
- Maintained sprinkler system & performed repairs when necessary
- Assisted with supervision of county work crews
- Assisted in property cleanup and dump runs with dump trailer
- Monitored cameras for transient traffic & called security when needed after hours
- First responder to alarm calls
- Removed & replaced 2<sup>nd</sup> floor walkway and repaired associated dry rot
- Met with contractors for west wing roof replacement
- Attended Carmichael Improvement District security meetings for updated information
- Cut up and removed dead & down trees on property
- Helped plant & establish the All Saints tree near the Sanctuary
- Installed new inclusive restroom signage

# 2023 Church Administration Division

Laura Janik, Chair

The Administration Division is charged by Session with the responsibility for:

- Overseeing and managing Christian stewardship of money, time, and talents.
- Informing the Congregation of financial needs and presenting a Stewardship Pledge drive annually.
- Developing the annual budget and assuring that all offerings are used for the purposes for which they are contributed. Working with Session to formalize the annual budget.
- Providing the administration of the church's programs, including the employment of staff, and administering issues of day-to-day operation such as utilities, insurance, etc.
- Providing for the management of the church property.
- Much of the Division's work is carried out through 4 standing committees:
  - Buildings and Grounds
  - Personnel
  - Stewardship
  - Financial

The Current members of the Administration Division are:

- Laura Janik, Chair (Class of 2024)
- Allison Cagley, Stewardship Elder (Class of 2025)
- Bill Pace, Finance and Personnel Elder (Class of 2024)
- Tim Farley, Chair, Buildings and Grounds

Session has also established committees that report to Session through the Administration Division. Each of these Committees is making a separate report of its activities in this annual report if activities this year warrant including the Gifts and Bequests Advisory Council.

Pastor Keith DeVries provides staff support to the Administration Division and each of its committees. Our Financial Administrator, Paul Shultz, provides ongoing support and assistance on financial matters.

Brief Overview of Actions and Activities for 2023

- The 2024 CPC annual budget is being finalized for submission to Session at the January 2024 meeting.
- The Stewardship Elder and the Stewardship Team prepared an outstanding 2024 Stewardship pledge campaign that was compelling in showing the quality of programs at CPC and the need for continuing financial support.
- Administration Division supported the work of the Personnel Committee and the Buildings and Grounds taskforce.
- With Session approval, the Administration Division renewed the rental agreement with the North Central California Presbytery for October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024.

## **Buildings & Grounds**

Tim Farley, Chair

In 2023 we continued to use the County Sheriff's work crew one day each month. On the fourth Saturday, the supervised crew of about 25 individuals worked on our list of cleaning, maintenance, and groundskeeping tasks. It is our hope in 2024 to bring back a pre-pandemic activity – the Congregational Spring Workday. Watch for the date.

Under the general sponsorship of B&G, a Parking Lot Task Force continued to develop a plan to redo the back parking lot. A separate report on that effort follows.

Ron Morris and Christian Bolen continued to provide maintenance and custodial care during the year. Their presence and attention to issues that arose is acknowledged and appreciated.

## **Parking Lot Task Force**

Tim Farley, Chair

The Parking Lot Task Force (PLTF) had its first meeting in June 2021 and the initial timeframe was loosely based on the Carmichael Water District's replacement of their water tank. Their project was slated to finish in summer 2023, and there was an expectation that they would use some of CPC's parking lot or Bucknam field during their construction. They now only have part of a wall left to complete their project.

From a design perspective, we began with a concept of creating a new parking lot that would eliminate our "lakes" (including Lake Carmichael), improve the planters, and replace some of the dead or dying trees. Our approach soon broadened into a new vision – of a "green" parking lot with attractive landscaping and environmentally sustainable design elements. Some of those elements are maximum shading and greening, minimum heat creation, naturalized draining, use of pavements that infiltrate, and the use of energy efficient lighting.

The approach now includes double rows of parking divided lengthwise by bioswale areas containing low vegetation and trees; and a ramp from the upper parking lot for access for those using canes, walkers, or wheelchairs or anyone else with mobility issues which would be situated near the existing stairs. We will have new LED lights in the parking lot designed specifically for that purpose.

CPC has experienced issues of trespassing, camping, drug sales/use, theft and vandalism on the church property – especially in the back parking lot area. For that reason, we will be gating and fencing the back area to protect our property.

A few months ago we decided to add solar electricity generating capability to the new parking lot. This is an idea that was considered at the start of our planning, but the financial mechanisms and support only became clear recently.

In 2023 we contracted with CWE, a general contractor, to work out specific details of the parking lot design. The last half of 2023 was spent in meetings and information exchanges between CPC, CWE, and Sacramento County to get a County "Determination" that what we are proposing in the parking lot is consistent with our (still in place) 1997 use permit.

Following the County’s determination (expected soon), CWE will begin actual construction drawings. As soon as we can, the PLTF will do two things – (1) have a rendering done showing what the new parking lot will look like, and (2) communicate informally with some contractors to get some ballpark numbers for construction costs.

Although we have many details yet to be completed – such as finalizing the design and layout of the parking lot, identifying and selecting contractors, and firming up funding costs and sources – we hope to have a new parking lot in place before the end of 2024.

## Gifts & Bequests

Bill Dunn, Chair

The Gifts and Bequests Advisory Council (GBAC) was established by Session to oversee actions concerning memorial gifts and bequests to CPC, endowments that benefit CPC, and to advise Session on the appropriate use of those gifts and bequests. GBAC publishes information in the Mission Bell regarding gifts and bequests so that our congregation will know who has been remembered with memorial gifts and how our members may use a variety of gifting vehicles to remember CPC. The current members of the GBAC are Bill Pace, Bill Dunn, ElizaBeth Phillips, Len Tozier, Glenda Perrou, and Patty Kepner.

In 2023, gifts were received in memory and in honor of members of the congregation and other relatives or friends. The receipt of these gifts is published periodically, every 3 to 6 months, in the Mission Bell. In addition to the undesignated memorial gifts noted in the chart below, memorial gifts of \$10,210 in total were designated for CPC Food Closet, Parking Lot, Centennial Celebration, Technology, Youth Mission, Choir, Children’s Choir, Supper on Saturday, Planting Seeds of Faith, Christmas Gift Ministry, and Arts Committee.

### Gifts Financial Report for 2023:

Account	Receipts	Expenses	Balance (12/31/23)
Capital Improvements (Benson)	5,547	0	5,688
Special Speakers/Programs	2,214	2,100	19,204
Khoobyar, designated for Adult Education	1,498	0	29,288
Landscape Fund	181	0	3,639
Hiller Music Bequest Fund	0	3,537	0
Undesignated bequests	0	14,907	164,828*
Undesignated memorial gifts	3,542	0	41,233
Undesignated gifts	0	0	21,238
CPC Reserve Fund	40,571	0	311,215

\*These funds are being held for use in improving the parking lot.

Recommendations for expenditures during 2023 were as follows:

- Funds of \$2,100 were recommended for use to pay stipends for guest worship speakers during our Centennial Celebration. The Special Speakers Fund was used for these expenditures and was further approved by the Education Division.
- Funds of \$3,537 were used from the Hiller Music Bequest Fund to purchase a new power supply for the sanctuary organ.

- Funds of \$123 were used from the Undesignated Bequests Fund to pay for the luncheon at the Lasting Legacy of Faith Workshop held on May 7.
- Funds of \$14,784 were used from the Undesignated Bequests Fund to pay preliminary costs for the parking lot. Those preliminary costs included current pavement assessment by Allerion Consulting, substantial compliance fees for Sacramento County, and preliminary plans and tasks performed by CWE Engineering.

As part of CPC’s Centennial anniversary in 2023, the GBAC held a “Lasting Legacy Giving” Workshop. At the workshop CPC welcomed Maggie Harmon, a consultant from the Presbyterian Foundation, who explored with participants our responsibility for being stewards in this life and beyond. The Adobe Funds Legacy program was also introduced at this Workshop. The Adobe Funds includes a number of different ways you can leave a gift as a legacy for CPC. If you have any questions concerning the Adobe Funds, please contact any member of the GBAC as listed in the first paragraph.

## **Personnel Committee**

Dave Studer, Chair

We continue to be blessed by a staff that responds to challenges and opportunities. The work of the church continues with a dedicated staff that supports the many missions and programs of this congregation. We understand that we provide checks each month, as needed for around eighteen employees. Some full-time, part-time, and some that are only needed when certain events occur.

This past year we oversaw the hiring of our new Children & Youth Ministry Director, completed staff evaluations and our annual Pastor evaluations. We also presented a program to the Session on handling objections and conflict. As a congregation we have undergone many changes these past couple of years. Understanding how to listen to those who have concerns is an important part of our responsibilities.

As a committee we are grateful to our staff that often make our job easy. Even during these difficult years, we have a lot to be thankful for.

If you have an interest in the workings of this committee, we are eager to add new members.

## **Stewardship Committee**

Allison Cagley, Chair

### **The Saints of God – Past, Present and Future**

For the 2024 Annual Pledge Campaign, the Stewardship Committee chose the theme The Saints of God – Past, Present and Future in celebration of our 100-year church anniversary and the CPC members.

Mission Bell articles, a personal letter from Pastor Keith and videos shown at church services leading up to Pledge Commitment Sunday reflected on the saints of the past, present and future and the vision and ministries needed in the future to fulfill the Gospel.

The workgroup included Allison Cagley, Pastor Keith DeVries, Laura Janik, Tim Farley and Patty Kepner. Sharon MacLean created the videos highlighting photos from the past 100 years of ministries and the saints who have served and continue to serve. The church staff were a vital part of the team to send out the letters and process the pledges.

The contributions as of 12/20/23 included 154 pledges totaling \$694,000.

The Stewardship Committee and Administration Division thank you for your faithful financial support.

## **Columbarium Board**

Bob Beckert, Chair; Submitted by Tony Perrou

Board members: Tony Perrou, Linda and Dan Franke

As of 12/31/22, the columbarium dedicated account balance was \$65,009.47.

As of 12/31/23, the columbarium dedicated account balance was \$68,609.47.

Two niche permit applications were received on October 16 in the amount of \$3,600.00.

The columbarium consists of 192 niches. At the close of 2023, the columbarium has 96 niches available with 96 niches permitted. Of the 96 niches that have been permitted, a total of forty-four inurnment services have been performed. There were no inurnment services performed in 2023.

The columbarium board met on September 5th and November 21st to review purchasing and protocol procedures, which included vendors to be contacted, supplies to be ordered, and a review of necessary steps to be taken for inurnment.

## **Centennial Committee**

Karen Orlando

What a year 2023 turned out to be as Carmichael Presbyterian Church celebrated its 100-year anniversary! In the works for more than three years prior, 2023 started off in January with a celebratory brunch catered by Jackson Catering as McMillen Hall was filled with scrapbooks and memorabilia and included a talk from Jimmi Mishler.

In the end of 2023, we celebrated with a gala extravaganza weekend. The gala weekend consisted of a Friday night reception with music by Chris Studer and a book signing of our new history book, Stories of Faith, Carmichael Presbyterian Church at 100, by Susan Herman and Pastor Keith DeVries. A concert on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> brought back many familiar faces, singing, and performing. The finale Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we enjoyed guest preacher Pamela Jacobi Starbuck (a child of the church), a campus tour, burying a new time capsule, and a festive lunch provided by Jackson Catering. The lunch included the renaming of the Gathering Place on the CPC campus to the “DeVries Gathering Place” to honor Pastor Keith DeVries, who is the longest serving pastor in CPC history.

During 2023 there were special activities planned, along with guest preachers and letters read during the Sunday services from former pastors. The Mission Bell had monthly articles about our church history. Our first guest pastor in January was Ryan MacLean, (a child of the church) who now attends Princeton Seminary. Our final guest pastor on December 31<sup>st</sup> was Mark Studer (a child of the church). The service included the musical leadership of Mark, his siblings, and his wife.

Events during the year included a church potluck, a year of art shows dedicated to the art of CPC and its friends, a concert performed by Hannah Ludwig, a cookbook, a float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, planting an “All Saints Tree,” hiking in Ancil Hoffman Park, new church t-shirts, the fifty-year celebration of the food closet, a magnificent quilt wall hanging on display for all of 2024, a new history book, and so much more.



Many thanks to the Centennial Committee – Keith DeVries, Susan Herman, Allison Cagley, Brenda Mock, Kathy Phillips, Kathy Lewin, Sharon MacLean, Monica Dahlberg, Lillian Janik, and Karen Orlando. The dedication and hard work of these individuals, along with numerous volunteers, helped to make the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Carmichael Presbyterian a truly special year.

# 2023 Christian Education

Rebecca Cameron, Chair

Lisa Torgerson, Children's Ministries Director (through March 2023)

Michael Lombrano, Children & Youth Ministry Director (as of October 2023)

As active Disciples of Christ, our Christian Education (CE) committee at Carmichael Presbyterian Church is committed to the following goals:

- To share knowledge of God's plan for our lives, using Bible-centered curriculum to study both the Old and New Testaments.
- To share Christ's plan for salvation, and to guide each child and adult into a personal commitment to Jesus as Lord and Savior. We trust that the Holy Spirit will lead and prepare each person to receive this gift.
- To guide children and adults to know they are loved by God and are special in God's sight.
- To help children and adults develop an awareness of their Christian responsibility to participate in the life and work of the church, and to serve God at home, in the community, and in the world.

## **Current CE Division members include:**

Rebecca Cameron, Elder Chair

Lisa Torgerson, Director of Children's Ministries (through March 2023)

Michael Lombrano, Director of Children & Youth Ministry (as of October 2023)

Mary MacDonald, Sunday school teacher extraordinaire

## **Special Events**

The 19<sup>th</sup> **Planting Seeds of Faith** was back again in 2023. We were fortunate enough to have Jackson Catering make the food again and so happy to be back. Thanks to everyone for helping raise over \$20,000 for the children and youth of CPC.

## **Vacation Bible School**

VBS returned to CPC in 2023 with "Ready, Set, Move!" ElizaBeth Phillips, Julie Ueltzen and Lynette Ledesma coordinated the weeklong event for 20 kids with the help of 25 adult and teen volunteers. This year VBS was an evening event, and ended with a "drive-in movie" in McMillen Hall complete with crafty cars built from cardboard boxes and ice cream sundaes.

## **Harvest Festival**

Harvest Festival was the first event Michael Lombrano was able to be a part of after being hired. We had games both indoors and outdoors including bounce houses that the kids loved, even if they were soaking wet after jumping on them! And finally, we had our annual Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot. Julie Ueltzen, Karen Gray, and Anne Parker all had major roles in the planning and execution of the event. They did a fantastic job! Because of their work Michael was able to start meeting parents, youth, and children of the community. Not only did our own church community show up (despite poor weather), but a plethora families from the surrounding neighborhoods came.

## **Earth Sunday**

We celebrated Earth Sunday again this year and will continue to do our part as an Earth Care Congregation. We will continue to build on this for years to come.

### **Advent Celebration**

With the help of the Fellowship and Nurture Division, The Christian Education committee planned, cooked, and crafted with 84 participants on Wednesday, November 29. Thank you, Mary MacDonald, our master crafter, for helping with the craft, and to Michael Lombrano for reading “Stone Soup.”

### **Ongoing Ministries:**

#### **Infant and Childcare**

Mary and Paul Camozzi continue to lovingly provide childcare on Sunday mornings. Many of our young children have first experienced the warmth of our church through these special “friends.” We continue to be blessed with Mary and Paul – they are the absolute best, and we aren’t sure what we would do without them.

#### **10:00 am Children’s Ministries**

We are very grateful for the volunteers who make this weekly ministry so successful. I would like to thank “upstairs Mary and Paul” (Mary MacDonald and Paul Shultz) for continuing to teach year after year and always supporting the kids of CPC. Their ongoing work in teaching our children about God’s love and mercy through study of God’s word is a blessing to us all.

#### **Stepping Stones of Faith**

Stepping Stones continue to celebrate milestones in the faith life of children and their families in our congregation. We are pleased to have Michael Gray and ElizaBeth Phillips as part of this teaching team. Thank you both. We ended our year with senior quilt presentation. This is one of our favorite things to do and we are endlessly grateful for Mary MacDonald for making beautiful quilts each year.

#### **Return of Youth Group:**

In November we had the great opportunity to bring back mid-week gatherings. The students were seemingly itching for the return of youth group, and they have been faithfully showing up every week. Michael has come to understand the group better each week and has been trying new things to keep their learning about God fresh and relatable to their lives.

#### **Sunday Morning Youth Group:**

The Sunday morning youth group started meeting before Michael Lombrano’s hiring in October and has continued to meet through the rest of the year. The topics of this group can change drastically and has been a pseudo-Bible study. We try to continue the conversation from the message in the service. In 2024 we are looking at having a more focused vision for this group.

#### **Children and Youth Events:**

Michael started offering monthly youth and children’s events. In 2023, we hosted movie nights, the first ever Scavenger Hunt games, and park days. It is the goal to have an event for all our students, children & youth at least once a month. Sometimes those are separate events for just children or for just youth. Throughout 2024 we are hosting more combined “family” events where the entire family is welcome to join. Events for our children and youth usually do not have any kind of religious messages. This is a deliberate decision. A goal of our events is to provide an opportunity for our students to run around and have fun, and for our students to bring friends with the goal to eventually bring them into the fold.

## **Library**

Doris Beckert, Librarian

There is an ongoing project that was begun in 2023 of entering about 3,600 church library books into a searchable database. Library Things is the name of the free software program that Julie Ueltzen found and set up. She is also helping me with the input of the books. Skipjacks Mariner Ship purchased a laptop computer for the library, dedicated to entering current books, as well as any new or donated books. Later it will be used to do searches as requested and to check holdings. Eventually the library will be part of the CPC website, and people will be able to access it from home. I estimate that the input part of this project will be completed by spring of 2024. This project is like that of the Presbytery Resource Center, which is linked to the Presbytery of North Central California website. Their project is almost complete.

Glenda Perrou has been helping with changing the seasonal décor. I have been writing monthly Library Corner articles for the Mission Bell.

Library hours are Sundays from 9:30 to 11:30 or by appointment. Check outs are self-service, following the printed instructions on the librarian's desk.

# 2023 Fellowship & Nurture Division

Lara Moborez, Chair

Mission: To enthusiastically care for the diversity of ages, needs, and interests within the CPC congregation and the Carmichael community by offering programs, services, and activities that build and support Christian fellowship.

Meetings: The second Tuesday of every month via Zoom following the Divisions meeting. Interested people are welcome to attend.

Oversees: Presbyterian Women (PW), Art Committee, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Stephen Ministry, Men's Prayer Breakfast (see separate reports on these), Wednesday Dinner, Coffee Fellowship, All Church Picnic, Family Advent Night, Mariner groups, Health Care Ministry and the *Directory of Adult Ministries*.

Attendees: Elders Maria Brow and Lara Moborez; Misty Dunn for Stephen Ministry and Prayer Shawl Ministry, Ivan Herman.

Wednesday Dinner (formerly Wednesday Works) continued during 2023 with Lynette Ledesma and helpers preparing and serving meals. F&N is working to get Mariner groups and others to help with the many tasks of Wednesday Dinner.

Coffee Fellowship has been held after the 10:00 a.m. service, primarily in the Gathering Place. F&N recruits Mariner groups to provide cookies or muffins for this weekly gathering.

All Church Picnic did not occur in 2023 due to the many activities already planned around the Centennial Celebration. The plan is to resume the picnic in 2024.

Family Advent Night transferred from Membership & Outreach in exchange for Harvest Festival, as this is more of a community outreach gathering, and happened on November 29, 2023. Family Advent Night was a collaboration with Mary MacDonald and the new Children & Youth Director, Michael Lombrano. Due to the Centennial Celebration, Family Advent Night happened on a Wednesday in place of Wednesday Dinner. This timing worked out well, and the celebration had 84 participants.

Health Care Ministry (HCM) needs healthcare professionals to volunteer to replace the Parish Nurse position. This ministry plans and promotes physical health and mental wellbeing opportunities. No HCM events were held in 2023 and none are currently planned for 2024.

*Directory of Adult Ministries* has been postponed for the past few years. An online resource was considered for this directory, but the security of personal information was a concern, so this is not feasible. Future publication of the directory is to be determined.

## Art Committee

Submitted by Lori Keeney

Our CPC Art Committee celebrated the spirit of our centennial year starting with incredible photography by artist and CPC member Clair Daugherty, entitled, "Rebuilding McMillen Hall," which ran to the first part of June. Clair's photos displayed some of the history behind the remodeling of McMillen Hall.

Next, we hosted “Plein Air Saturday” in May and invited local “Third Saturday Plein Artists” to join our members and friends for a day of sketching and painting on church grounds. Sheila Mun Jacobs organized this event with her artistic background and savvy and people of all ages attended. The “CPC Centennial Plein Air Day” Art Show ran from June through yearend. Local “Plein Air Day” representation was also published in “The Carmichael Times” and “Inside Arden.”

This year, we enjoyed Artist Receptions and “Meet the Artist(s)” Sundays. We utilized CPC’s Facebook page, thanks to Lynette Ledesma’s technical skills, and Kathy Daigle created Mission Bell articles and writeups. With several new Art Committee members, we have creatively grown with CPC’s Art Show ideas, and are newly inspired.

We thank the wonderful Centennial Committee for their enthusiasm and fun celebrations all year. It was most memorable, and the Art Committee was so glad to be a part of this wonderful 100<sup>th</sup> year of our beloved Carmichael Presbyterian Church.

## **Men’s Prayer Breakfast**

Tim Farley

On most Thursday mornings at 8:30 in 2023, the Men’s Prayer Breakfast continued to meet on Zoom. In November, though, on the first Thursday of the month we returned to our pre-pandemic habit of meeting over breakfast at Dennys.

Our discussions continued to be loosely based on the Upper Room lesson for the date and the related scripture passages. Our lively conversations often included sharing personal stories, concerns and needs.

Our attendance in 2023 averaged about 7 persons each week. The breakfast and fellowship “door” is always open to new participants. Call Tim Farley at 916-715-9246 for details.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Carol Jones

Our prayer shawl ministry primarily met in person last year. We have 8 regular members who attend our meetings or knit and crochet at home. New members are always welcome. We delivered 24 shawls last year. I continue to be the group leader.

## **Presbyterian Women (PW)**

Carolyn McGregor, Moderator

Presbyterian Women is expertly guided through the year by an Executive Committee comprised of elected officers and appointed committee persons. The Presbyterian Women's Circle year runs from September to the following May. We continued to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study and to support Mission in our community and worldwide. We have two traditional Circles, Naomi & Mary Martha, and one Dorcas Sewing Circle. Naomi Circle meets on the morning of the third Thursday of the month and Mary Martha Circle meets that afternoon. Dorcas Sewing Circle meets the first Tuesday of the month, October to May.

We are blessed to have Pastor Keith or Pastor Ivan lead us in a monthly introduction to our Bible Study. This Pastor led Bible Study is held on Zoom on the second Thursday of the month. This Circle Year's Bible Study is "Sacred Encounters – The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" by Olive Mahabir. Terry Sakuda and Lisa Benadom provide comprehensive articles to the Mission Bell regarding the month's Bible Study lesson and important PW news and events.

Our Mission concerns this year include CPC Supper on Saturday, the Carmichael Food Closet and Christmas Gift Ministry. Locally we are supporting the Greater Sacramento Alzheimer's Association, WIND Youth Services, gift cards for emancipated youth and Charlotte House at Carmichael HART. In the world at large we are supporting Solar Cookers International, Doctors Without Borders and the Least Coin Offering. Dorcas Sewing Circle continues to make quilted throws for emancipated youths and Family Promise families.

During Advent we again sponsored the El Camino High School Madrigal Choir concert in the Sanctuary and greatly appreciate those who attended. We are indebted to Margo Scandella who met with the new choir director Tessa Kelly, gave her a tour of the CPC campus, greeted the choir on the day of the concert and baked them brownies as a "thank you."

The PW Roster/Handbook is relied on by the PW membership to keep in touch with our Circle members and the PW program for the year. We thank Olene Chard and Margo Scandella for all their hard and time-consuming work in putting together the Roster/Handbook this year.

Finally, we wish to thank Karen Gray and Julie Ueltzen for all the support they give us through their offices. They never say no when we ask for help. They are truly a blessing to CPC Presbyterian Women.

## **Stephen Ministry**

Misty Dunn

The Stephen Ministry program continued to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian caregiving to CPC members as well as to others in the community, free of charge. Four Stephen Ministers met weekly in-person or by phone this year with individuals who have been going through some major life challenges. The Stephen Ministry Leaders continued to mail out letters and copies of the very helpful "Journeying Through Grief" booklets to persons dealing with the loss of a loved one. Some good news is that four new individuals have committed to take the 50 hours of instruction and practice required to become Stephen Ministers. In the spring of 2024, they will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers and will be ready to serve.

# 2023 Membership & Outreach Division

Anne Parker, Chair

Throughout 2023, the Membership and Outreach (M&O) division engaged with visitors, members, the public, and other divisions at CPC to make our programs, services, and events welcoming. Through weekly greeting at the back of the church, we welcomed over 75 new visitors in 2023. We connected with visitors after the church service and followed up with those who provided contact information. Through continued connections and opportunities to get involved, we worked hard to build lasting relationships between visitors and members. In addition, we coordinated with church staff to secure a location and process for storing belongings of unhoused church visitors on Sunday mornings. The safe space for their belongings allowed unhoused visitors the freedom to fully participate in church and fellowship.

The information below highlights events and additional ways M&O engaged with our community, visitors, and members.

## ***Membership***

We continued to host Ask the Pastor events before each new member class. The Ask the Pastor meeting offers newcomers a chance to find out more about CPC in a casual environment before committing to a new member class. Ask the Pastor events took place in February and September followed by new member classes in April and October. The new member classes welcomed 12 new members in 2023, most of whom participated in an Ask the Pastor meeting prior to signing up for the new member class. Additionally, with assistance from church staff we facilitated a cleanup of the membership rolls, deleting members who have not attended or contributed in over 3 years.

## ***Opportunity Knocks***

Sharon MacLean continues to serve as the Engagement Coordinator since the position started in September 2021. "Opportunity Knocks" has been going strong in 2023 as Sharon continued to connect with our ministry leaders to find opportunities for members and friends of CPC to engage in the life of CPC through service or involvement in a variety of ministries and events. Sharon presented these opportunities in monthly Mission Bell articles and at a monthly table during coffee hour on Sundays. Occasionally members of other divisions or ministries joined her at her table to highlight a specific event or ministry. As other opportunities arose, Sharon was often asked to advertise opportunities on the church's social media or in the Parish Notes. We look forward to connecting more people with opportunities for involvement and service in the coming year, especially as we plan our annual Women's Retreat again in the Fall of 2024.

## ***CPC Inclusion Task Force***

The purpose of the Inclusion Task Force is to support CPC's efforts to be more welcoming and inclusive of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual, and more (LGBTQIA+) community. We focused on education, signage, and communication during 2023. We supported a pastor-led Lenten book study on [The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage](#), through publicity, coffee, and cookies, and an explanation about why using the right pronoun is so important. The class was well-attended with 25-28 attendees each week and active participation. Pronoun buttons and stickers were purchased and have been made available to the congregation.

We worked with Pastor Keith to conduct classes for Session on the Bible and homosexuality, based on essays from the Covenant Network (CovNet), with whom we affiliated in 2022.



All-gender restroom signage has been installed for all one-stall restrooms at CPC. Signs next to the first-floor restrooms direct individuals to the handicapped-access all-gender restroom on the second floor. The sign company, SignCraft Architectural Signage, donated the cost of the signs. The “Welcome” signs located in the narthex and sanctuary were updated to rainbow colors. We also linked the CovNet logo on our E-Parish Notes and website to the CovNet website ([www.covnetpres.org](http://www.covnetpres.org)).

Plans are underway for a 2024 Lenten book study on [Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians](#).

Kathy Lewis and Rae-Nani Stokes co-lead the Inclusion Task Force which reports to the Membership and Outreach Division and includes members from the Membership and Outreach Division, Education Division, Mission Division, and the congregation at large.

### ***World Relief Sacramento Partnership***

CPC formed a partnership with World Relief Sacramento (WRS) in 2018 to provide support and welcome the many Afghan refugees who have moved to Sacramento. That partnership continues today in new ways. Many involve use of our facilities where World Relief has hosted two large job fairs in McMillen Hall and two health classes in what used to be our preschool rooms. CPC volunteers continue to provide support for the online English as a Second Language (ESL) and integration classes that WRS provides throughout the year to help Afghan women succeed. CPC volunteers served as teaching assistants and helpers in compiling and delivering learning materials.

In June, CPC also hosted a joyous graduation celebration in the DeVries Gathering Place for the class of 2023 ESL graduates. The celebration honored the Afghan women graduates as well as the volunteers supporting them.

CPC invited WRS to participate in our Alternative Gift Market to continue our financial support for this important refugee organization.

### ***Community Outreach and Involvement***

To celebrate the centennial anniversary of the church, the Membership and Outreach Division organized a parade float entry in the Carmichael Elks’ Fourth of July parade. Over the course of two months, and with the time and talents of many volunteers, we built a replica of the church’s bell tower from lumber, chicken wire, and more than 3400 tissue paper flowers. The float was pulled by a 1953 Ford Jubilee tractor displaying our rainbow All Are Welcome inclusion yard signs. An enthusiastic watch party of at least 20 CPC supporters cheered on the 18 or so members and friends of CPC who walked in the parade alongside the float. The float was well received by the community for its craftsmanship and inclusive message.

M&O helped design, coordinate the sales, and distribute centennial t-shirts and purchased a plaque of the Carmichael Times’ front-page article highlighting CPC’s centennial anniversary. The plaque now hangs in the church office for everyone to admire.

Sharon MacLean and members of the Membership and Outreach division increased our social media footprint with 43 Instagram posts, 42 Facebook posts, and events on Nextdoor. We also increased visibility of church events and activities through the creation of slides that appeared before the church service on Sunday mornings.

In September the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce responded to the many votes from friends and members and proudly proclaimed that CPC is the Best Church in Carmichael...for the fourth time!

### ***Carmichael Founders Harvest Festival***

The Carmichael Founder's Day event changed its name this year to the Carmichael Founders Harvest Festival. This year CPC hosted two booth spaces on September 30 and provided a booth geared toward families with young children, and a booth to display the church bell tower used in the Fourth of July parade. Both booths were decorated with historical pictures of CPC over the last century. We had several crafts for the children: Q-tip trees where their hands formed the trunk and branches, colorful coffee filter butterflies, coloring sheets, and an eye spy game. The children's crafts were popular with more than 60 kids and their parents stopping by to enjoy the activities. We demonstrated care and concern and engaged in friendly conversation with everyone who stopped by.

### ***Harvest Festival***

For the second post-pandemic year in a row, we hosted the CPC Harvest Festival on October 25, 2023. The rain showers dampened the ground and our costumes, but not our spirits. Nearly 200 people attended the event this year, almost double the attendance in 2022. M&O hosted the event this year with support from many adult volunteers, youth volunteers, and CPC's new Children & Youth Ministry Director, Michael Lombano. This event continues to be an excellent opportunity to invite friends and Carmichael community members to CPC.

### ***Run to Feed the Hungry***

Once again, M&O sponsored a virtual Run to Feed the Hungry event on Thanksgiving Day. 32 people (and 3 dogs) met Elders ElizaBeth Phillips and Anne Parker at the church to run or walk the 5K distance through Ancil Hoffman Park, then returned to CPC for refreshments. To reduce the cost for participants and create a more inclusive event, we did not create an official team this year. The cost to participate in the "run" supports the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS) who provides families, children, and seniors in Sacramento County with the food they desperately need. Participants continue to express appreciation about the opportunity to begin Thanksgiving Day raising money for SFBFS while enjoying exercise and companionship with their CPC family.

## 2023 Mission Division

David Mathews, Chair

Before every decision the Mission Division makes, we first think of Mathew 25:40 “I tell you the truth, whatever you did to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The Elders on Mission are David Mathews (Chair), Rebecca Parker and Bob Curtis. CPC Members Barbara Farley, Brenda Mock, Paul Kinsella and John Wallace also attend regularly.

### Family Promise:

CPC supports Family Promise, a nonprofit organization committed to helping homeless low-income families achieve lasting independence and Safe Harbor’s part of the Family Promise mix. CPC’s support of Family Promise happens in a number of different ways and we are among several interdenominational congregations to serve at the Safe Harbor facility, which provides three small homes to families on their journey to independence.

Since its inception in 2020, Safe Harbor has been home to over 29 families who, within 90 days move on to more permanent situations.

Four times a year, CPC serves Safe Harbor by offering gardening, yard and kitchen clean up, gift cards, groceries, gift baskets, household essentials and reading to the young family children.

In 2023, CPC served Safe Harbor the weeks of March 5, June 18, September 17, and December 17. For 2024 our service will be the weeks of March 10, June 23, September 22, and December 29.

In addition to help at Safe Harbor, CPC provides \$1,600 annually to Family Promise to assist with various support services provided to families. These include rental assistance and housing in local hotels. All families assisted by Family Promise, including those in Safe Harbor, are prescreened and then provided with professional case managers offering individualized case management and mentoring to fit the unique needs of every family served. Case managers help set specific goals and strategies designed to dismantle obstacles preventing success, to teach them to find jobs if necessary, and to obtain permanent housing. Family Promise is committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness and permanently keeping families off the streets. Case management is the key to giving families the tools and resources they need to gain and maintain self-sufficiency. In 2023, 22 families have been helped.

### Alternative Gift Market:

This year the Alternative Gift Market (AGM) was held in person with the traditional social and shopping event typically in McMillen Hall in November. The AGM was reduced from two shopping days down to one, due to the demands placed on the Mission Division by the Centennial Celebration. The one-day event was a success raising approximately \$9500 for social ministries. This year David Mathews and Rodney Dahlberg assisted Barbara Farley in the planning and execution of the AGM. Planning for next year has already begun.

### Special Offerings:

CPC generously supported the four PCUSA Special Offerings with \$9,986.77 in giving which included the following:

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for support of the ministries of disaster relief, hunger programs, and development aid. CPC sent a financial gift of \$4,151,77.

- Pentecost Offering is for the support of at-risk children, youth, and young adults - \$2,835 of contributions were forwarded to the Synod and the remaining funds were retained at CPC to support local mission projects.
- Peace & Global Witness Offering funds are for support of peacemaking efforts and education and \$2,740 was sent to the Synod. The balance remaining allowed us to support Carmichael HART for regional needs.
- Christmas Joy Offering supports current and retired church workers who are in need and for scholarship assistance at Presbyterian schools and \$260 was forwarded to the Presbytery of North Central California.

#### Denominational Support:

In 2023, CPC gave \$63,936 for Mission ministries and program support through our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, which included \$15,536 in per capita. A portion of these funds return to the Presbytery of North Central California including an allocation for a variety of mission activities.

#### Winter Respite:

CPC, along with Carmichael HART, transitioned from the traditional Winter Sanctuary in McMillen Hall to Winter Respite. The COVID restrictions precluded overnight stays in local churches, but we were able to open McMillen Hall one day a week for food and warm sanctuary in January and February.

#### Carmichael Homeless Assistance Resource Team (Carmichael HART):

CPC continues to join with other faith communities in the Carmichael area to form Carmichael Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART). Other congregations who work with HART are Christ Community, Crossroads Church, Latter Day Saints - Carmichael Stake, St. Michaels, American River Community Church and Beth Shalom. HART is locally organized to help resolve and assist the homeless in the Carmichael area. Other HART groups are organized in Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Folsom. New HART groups are being formed in North Sacramento, Arden-Arcade, South Sacramento, Midtown and Sac State. In addition to Winter Respite, HART sponsors a Student Buddy program for homeless middle school children. An adult meets with their buddy at least twice a month at lunch time offering support and guidance.

In 2023 Carmichael Presbyterian continued to support Carmichael HART through the transitional housing program at Robertson House. One important change occurred when Sacramento Self Help Housing went out of business. CityNet is now the new provider of management services for both Robertson House and Charlotte House.

#### Shower Ministry:

Carmichael HART volunteers run the shower ministry at CPC nearly every Saturday morning. This ministry has grown to include more than just a way to get clean. In addition to providing towels and toiletries, volunteers also provide coffee, snacks, a place to charge electronic devices, and a friendly face. Community groups also occasionally provide free hair care, healthcare support, and assistance with signing up for insurance.

## **Carmichael Food Closet**

**Barbara Farley**

In September Carmichael Food Closet celebrated 50 years of responding to food insecurity in the greater Carmichael area. More than 130 people attended our celebration picnic in the parking lot outside the Food Closet on September 16. Past and current volunteers as well as the people we serve enjoyed a hot dog picnic with all the trimmings and some walked away with raffle items.

We continue to partner with Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS), Walmart, Grocery Outlet and Safeway with the federal program "Feeding America." Other churches also brought donations to the Carmichael Food Closet including American River Community Church, Celtic Cross Church, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Mark's Lutheran, Presentation Catholic Church, Carmichael Seventh Day Adventist Church, and the Sunrise Christian Food Closet. We continue to receive fresh fruit and vegetables from the CPC Community Garden and the Carmichael Community Garden. The Carmichael Kiwanis Club supports the Food Closet with diapers. We also continue to receive generous support from the members of CPC and the community at large.

The CPC Food Closet distributes canned food, fresh produce, meat, eggs, milk and other dairy products, cereal, pasta, rice, peanut butter, jam/honey for those with children, sliced bread, rolls and other baked goods to families. Our goal is to have a minimum of 9 healthy meals per person in the grocery bags. We also take note of dietary restrictions (diabetic, gluten-free, lactose intolerant, halal, etc.) as a part of our intake process. We add toilet paper for all households when it is available.

Due to the continued shortages of milk and eggs from the SFBFS, the Carmichael Food Closet has been purchasing those items since summer 2021. The average weekly expense is about \$650.

The new to us walk-in freezer/refrigerator installed in the warehouse in 2021 has contributed greatly to our ability to store more fresh products, produce and bulk dairy purchases.

We distributed 140 complete turkey dinners for Thanksgiving this year. Temple Beth Shalom provided 40 of the dinners with a frozen turkey. The other 100 families received a \$15.00 gift certificate to go towards a turkey or other items for their dinner.

We send our excess food to a homeless ministry supported by Crossroads Church that distributes food to the homeless at encampments that are more remote with limited resources. We also support the Carmichael HART Thursday Lunch Program and HART's Saturday showers with food items.

Driving volunteers pick up food from Sacramento Food Bank each Friday, Walmart at Madison and Manzanita four days a week, Safeway three days a week, and Grocery Outlet on Marconi weekly.

During 2023 there were several changes in scheduling and leadership at the Food Closet. We are no longer open at all on Wednesdays or Friday afternoons. We, however, have increased our daily numbers from 25 to 30 families and with the addition of Thursday evening pick up that serves an average of 45 families (60 the Thursday before Thanksgiving) we are serving the same numbers of families that we used to serve when we were open five days a week.

The Food Closet has not had an individual designated as the Director for the past two years. Individuals have taken responsibility of covering one day a week. Brenda Mock and her daughter Tiffany Mock Goeman

covered one day a week, scheduled volunteers, recruited new volunteers and ordered supplies from The Sacramento Food Bank along with other coordination. Leadership on the other days of the week include the efforts of Barbara Farley, Helen Magnuson, and April Jacek with help from Kathy Lewis, Gloria Kelley, Andrea Heckenlively, Ernie Chard, Pete Caffarata, Yolanda Carr, Janey Mooney, and Jennifer Auld.

Tiffany and Brenda moved to Yuba City in October leaving a big hole for us to fill. Under the direction of the Mission Division of CPC we researched how other Food Closets of our size handle leadership. We found that most pay at least one person and some pay as many as three people. With the support of the Mission Division and the Food Closet Leadership Team the decision was made to hire a 20 hour a week person. Mary Meister served in this position until December 15 and left when she was offered full-time employment. Megan Dye has been volunteering at The Food Closet where her schedule allows and demonstrated the exact skills needed in a director. She has accepted our part time position beginning January 16, 2024.

Currently the Leadership Team for the Food Closet includes:

- Barbara Farley: warehouse maintenance, food purchasing & general management.
- Helen Magnusen: general management, food pick up, policies & procedures, nutrition and food handling.
- Andrea Heckenlively: phone bank coordinator
- Ernie Chard: driver coordination
- April Jacek: Thursday evening distribution
- Chris Fenstermaker: at large
- Kathy Philips: data entry
- Ivan Herman: inspiration

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS. CONTACT THE FOOD CLOSET AT [carmfc5645@gmail.com](mailto:carmfc5645@gmail.com) leave your name and contact information and you will be sent a link to [signup.com](https://www.signup.com) where you can find your spot.**

Since COVID we have had to expand our pool of potential volunteers. In addition to faithful CPC volunteers, we now reach out through Nextdoor, Facebook and other community service sites for volunteers and use [signup.com](https://www.signup.com) to organize our daily schedule.

We continue to provide food supplies for Supper on Saturday (SOS), Carmichael HART Winter Respite in January and February, Carmichael HART Thursday Bag Lunch Program, and snacks for the ongoing HART Shower program on Saturdays.

Tim Farley coordinated the Kids Can Food Drive for the 11th year with 18 schools in the San Juan School District participating. The drive brought in 17,500 pounds of canned goods, equal to 8.75 Tons of food. Which was an increase of more than a ton of nonperishable items from last year. Pete Caffarta, Chris Fenstermaker, Brian Nordeen, and Dave Mathews helped Tim collect & weigh all of the food.

The Data Entry Team tracks the number of times a client is served per year, and submits accounting reports to Feeding America and the Sacramento Food Bank.

**BREAK DOWN of 2023 GUESTS:**

	2022	2023	Increase over 2022
Total Adults (Ages 18-59)	14,449	18,938	31%
Total Children (Ages 0-17)	7,828	8,614	10%
Total Seniors (Age 60+)	2,721	2,731	0%
TOTAL PERSONS SERVED	25,208	30,290	20%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SERVED	8,035	11,480	43%
TOTAL MEALS	239,476	272,610	14%

The percentage increase from 2021 to 2022 was more dramatic than the increases from 2022 to 2023, but the numbers of households serviced is still rising by a significant amount (43%) with most in the age range of 18 to 59.

## **Supper on Saturday**

Barbara Farley

At 4 pm on the third Saturday of each month a team of volunteers prepares and serves a special dinner for anyone who can come. We average 50 to 60 people each month and many come early to save a place for a friend to join them. Larry, a regular diner, also comes early and plays the piano. Sometimes he brings one of his piano students to practice playing for an audience. What a privilege it is to be able to enjoy classical and popular music while we dine.

We cooperate with the Carmichael Food Closet and often can fix very special meals when they have a meat donation that is too large to give out to an individual family. Examples are 10-pound chubs of ground beef and a full brisket. Casseroles are always popular. Thanksgiving and Christmas are always special meals – Chef Branden Rodgers of Jackson Catering & Events prepares our Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the trimmings, and we always have ham for our Christmas meal. Our guests are always appreciative of our service on real plates, silverware and flowers on every table.

Trina Spivack and I are grateful for our faithful volunteers who come each month to prepare and serve the dinner. We always look forward to adding others to our team so call us if you would like to help with this special ministry at CPC.

# 2023 Worship Division

Kathy Phillips, Chair

**Division membership:** Clint Dahlke (Chair - through May 2023); Kathy Phillips (Chair - June 2023 to present); Terry Sakuda (Elder - June 2023 to present); Kathy Lewin (Deacon - through May 2023); Deb Sweetman (Deacon - June 2023 to present); Keith DeVries (pastor); Keith Atwater (Music Director)

**Division Responsibilities:** The Worship Division coordinates the activities that support and enable the worship experience at Carmichael Presbyterian Church. These include, but are not limited to:

- The worship environment
- The music, drama and liturgical art programs
- The tech team
- The lay leaders who lead the congregation in responsive readings each Sunday
- Special services and special events that take place during the worship service (such as Communion, Baptisms and the sharing of Faith Stories.)

**Our Pastors:** Our pastors lead our worship services with the help of lay people. In 2023, the CPC congregation continued to benefit from the wisdom, counsel and leadership of Pastor Keith DeVries and Associate Pastor Ivan Herman. In addition to navigating the challenges that remain after the pandemic, they led us in celebrating the 100-year history of this community of faith.

**Worship Environment/Worship Experience:** In 2023 many of the adjustments that had been made during the pandemic were tweaked and became more established. Under the leadership of Music Director Keith Atwater the hybrid service contained a blend of many musical styles. The serving of Communion continued to be revised, keeping health concerns in mind. By the end of the year we continued to put the bread in individual cups and used eight servers as the congregation came forward to receive Communion. The practice of “greeting one another” as a formal part of the order of worship returned during Lent and remained for the rest of the year. In person attendance gradually increased to 100-150 each Sunday while livestream continued to reach 150-175 weekly.

With the large number of YouTube views that occur each week, the livestream work of the **Tech Team** remained very important. The team of Noor Bitar, Michael Gray, Avonlee Janik, Josh Keaney, Bruce MacLean, Steve Parker, and David Stoffel managed the sound system during worship, projected the words of songs and readings onto the overhead screen, projected the video of the service on to screens around the campus, and made the recordings available for future viewing on the church website and by DVD.

## **Music Department:**

2023 was the first full year with **Music Director** Keith Atwater, who started in September 2022. One of his goals has been to integrate diverse styles of music and various music groups in order to create a meaningful and truly “blended” service. One key to the effective blended worship services has been **organist/pianist** Rick Schlosser, who was also hired in September 2022. Rick has brought out all of the varied sounds available on CPC’s organ and also played well-chosen music in a variety of styles— classical, Gospel, jazz, folk and contemplative—on both piano and organ, sometimes with other musicians.

The **Praise Team** led two songs in worship each week throughout the year, in addition to performing a prelude or postlude. Claire Aretsky, Tara Calderon, Karen Gray, Anita Lawson, Laura Leek, Beth Lindley and Julie Ueltzen were vocalists. The instrumentalists for the entire year were Gabe Bisho (piano), Will Condrey



(drums), and Michael Schwab (guitar). Bass guitarist Matt Major left for graduate school in September and Dr. Merlyn Van Regenmorter, retired ARC music professor, replaced him on bass for three Sundays a month.

The **Sanctuary Choir** sang two or three Sundays a month, often from the front of the church and occasionally with the handbells or praise band. The choir grew to 21 members, some new to CPC and some returning to choir after COVID.

Both younger and older **instrumentalists** became more involved in sharing their musical gifts during worship. The congregation heard sacred music in various styles on violin, trombone, flute, flute ensemble, saxophone, and cello.

Rick Schlosser stepped up as interim director of the **Mission Bells** when Jenny DeVries took a leave of absence to care for family members. The handbell ensemble played once a month and were an integral part of Easter and Advent seasons.

The **Waterfall Singers** continued to sing in church 6 or 7 times a year. The dozen or so kindergarten through 5th grade children met after church on Sunday mornings to spend time singing, listening, moving, dancing, and playing instruments. Under the leadership of Director Nancy Studer with assistance from Kathy Phillips, accompanist, and Carol Honnold, they sing songs that focus on praise and thanksgiving and that remind us that God will always be there for us. A highlight of the year was being part of the Centennial Concert and being able to sing with all the other choirs.

The music program supported CPC's centennial celebrations in a variety of ways. Musical highlights included Hannah Ludwig's recital, a men's choral ensemble at the December 3rd luncheon, and performances by former CPC musicians Chris and Mark Studer. All music groups came together at the gala matinee concert on December 2nd, which included all current musical groups of the church with the addition of some Waterfall Singers alumni, the return of the Living Water ensemble, and the Celebration Singers.

### **Special Events:**

**The Centennial Year:** In addition to the musical highlights mentioned above, our worship services were enhanced throughout 2023 by special moments provided by the centennial committee.

- Beginning in January, letters from former pastors were read in church. They highlighted many significant events from our past while reconfirming the importance of our continuing ministry in 2023. We also had a variety of guest preachers throughout the year. In different months through different voices we were reminded of our connections to the larger church and the larger community, of our shared past, and of our anticipated future.
- When the third graders received their Bibles in March, many members of the congregation brought their first Bibles and shared the stories associated with them.
- After our traditional All Saints Remembrance service in October, a tree was planted in memory of ALL of the saints of CPC.
- In November the centennial quilt, created by Margo Scandella and Darlene Little, was unveiled and displayed for close up viewing before being hung in the sanctuary.
- December 3rd was the culmination of the year's events with a special worship service that included a one-time return to in-pew Communion service.

### **Other Worship Services:**

- The Lenten Season began with a Taize style service on Ash Wednesday where the congregation came forward for the imposition of ashes and to receive Communion. Holy Week began on Palm Sunday with our children processing and carrying palms through the Sanctuary. Maundy Thursday service included a

drama, written and directed by Karen Orlando, which offered different points of view of Judas. Worship during the Good Friday service revolved around the reading of scripture, music by the Sanctuary Choir, and hymn singing by all. Easter Sunday was celebrated with a beautiful sunrise service overlooking the American River followed by services in the sanctuary at 9:00 and 11:00.

- Youth Sunday on June 4th provided an opportunity for the congregation to step into the world of the younger generation and experience Godly Play on Trinity Sunday. In addition to leading the service and providing the Godly Play lesson, the youth were authorized and trained by Session to serve Communion.
- Music Appreciation Sunday on October 15th was a chance to acknowledge and thank all of the individuals who lead us in worship throughout the year.
- On October 29th we observed All Saints Day as a time of remembrance in honor of those who entered the Church Triumphant in the prior year.
- The beginning of Advent coincided with our Centennial Celebration weekend so it was appropriate that the first Advent candle of the season was lit by Jan Olson and Brenda Mock, who had been members of the high school youth group in the 1950s. A Blue Christmas service was held on December 17th for those who struggle with grief and loss during the holiday season, again led by Pastor Ivan with the support of the Deacons and Stephen Ministers. Since December 24th fell on a Sunday this year, there were three services starting with our regular Sunday morning service at 10:00. The Christmas Eve Family Service was held at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Children filled the Bethlehem village as we heard the Christmas story through Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and songs from the Sanctuary Choir. An in-person Candlelight Communion Service was held at 11:00 p.m. with special music from Hannah Ludwig and Trina Spivack, the Lord's Supper, and Scripture.

**Our Many Volunteers:** The Worship Division is grateful for the many devoted volunteers who contribute in so many ways to providing meaningful worship. Thank you to all who have served as lay leaders and readers, Communion servers, helpers with set up and take down of sanctuary decorations, and ushers. We would also like to thank Craig Morris, who orders and delivers Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias, and Garrett Torgerson, who provides the palms for Palm Sunday.

# 2023 Deacons' Report

Deb Sweetman, Moderator

## Current Board of Deacons Officers

Moderator – Deb Sweetman

Vice Moderator – Lillian Janik

Secretary - Bette Johnson

## Coordinators and Other Vital Roles:

Care and Share Coordinator – Patty Kepner

Communion Coordinator – Whitney MacLean

Special Flowers – Craig Morris

Healing Meals – Caron Treon

Worship Committee Liaison – Deb Sweetman

Pew clean-up and restocking – Ushers

Tony Perrou and Duane Johnson continue to be dedicated Usher Captains along with Ushers Tracey Dron and Julie Leporiere.

Usher Coordinator – Mary Thomas

Flower Delivery Coordinator – Marsha Cook

Pantry Coordinator – Jami McCray

In-Home Communion Coordinator – Erin Pace

Transportation – vacant

Several changes have taken place this past year. We have experienced a reduction in Deacons which requires adjustment to serve effectively. The Deacon Board previously consisted of 24 Deacons, and we currently have 17 Deacons, with 4 going off the board in June. Two Deacons will renew for another year and we will have several Coordinator vacancies to fill.

Usher Coordinator Mary Thomas has implemented an Usher sign-up spreadsheet for the entire year with all usher positions. Mary sends an email notifying the needs and those that volunteer email her the dates they choose and position. She updates the spreadsheet and sends it out to us. It is working beautifully!

This year we want to get the message out that all volunteers to usher are welcome. One does not need to be a deacon to be an usher.

The other change is we have designated a Coffee Usher for Coffee Fellowship set-up, serving and clean-up, along with the Pulpit Usher to help serve and clean-up. This change is also working well. Coffee Fellowship has seen an increase in people each week. Fellowship and Nurture Division provides cookies each week. We have become more conscientious of food allergies and indicate peanut allergies, tree nut allergies, and gluten free treats.

## **Care & Share:**

Care and Share Ministry continues to be our primary caring outreach and communication with those who are unable to attend church, along with distributing the Upper Room and cards. Care and Share contacts this past year included calls, cards, flowers deliveries, visits, Upper Room deliveries and other contacts and we average 55 contacts per month. This is an extraordinary ministry which requires the dedication of past, present and future Deacons. Many thanks this past year to our Coordinators, Terry Sakuda and Patty Kepner.

## **Christmas Gift Ministry:**

Team: Deb Sweetman, Lillian Janik & Gannon Grace

Christmas Gift Ministry is our community outreach for local families in need. This year we provided 36 families with gift cards and grocery cards. Such a huge blessing! Julie Ueltzen began in September by

contacting Carmichael schools, Family Promise and any congregation families who would benefit from this ministry. She coordinated communication with school secretaries to identify low-income families and the needs of all the families, then determined all the gift cards needed and categorized by store. She also calculated the amount of donations to support the ministry with weekly progress. This is a huge job, and she deserves a big Thank You!

Lilly was amazing and wrote the Mission Bell article, Minute for Mission, coordinated gift card purchasing and put together all the gifts bags. Deb and Gannon handled the donation table at the Alternative Gift Market and in the Gathering Place each Sunday. Thank you to all who purchased gift cards: Misty and Bill Dunn, Erin Pace, Lilly Janik, Laura Janik, Whitney McLean, ElizaBeth and Rory Phillips, Gannon Grace and Deb Sweetman.

Deb delivered the gifts to all the schools and Kathy Lewin delivered gifts to Family Promise.

Although donations were down, Christmas Gift Ministry remains a vital community outreach. This year we are discussing other possible opportunities to offer outreach to these schools during the year and increase congregation participation.

The Deacons look forward to a wonderful year ahead of serving God, our church and community.

## 2023 Nominating Committee

ElizaBeth Phillips, Moderator

The Nominating Committee is required by the Book of Order. The committee's size and composition are set by the Bylaws of Carmichael Presbyterian Church. During 2022-2023, four congregation members were on the committee. Its Moderator is a serving Ruling Elder on Session, serving a three-year term. Two are at-large members elected by the congregation for two-year terms. Session appoints a non-serving Elder, and the Board of Deacons appoints a Deacon Representative. No member of the committee shall serve more than three consecutive years. Pastor Keith DeVries serves ex officio as provided by the Book of Order.

The committee is charged with presenting a slate of nominees at CPC's annual Congregational Meeting. The committee is also responsible for finding candidates to fill any vacancies that might occur. In addition, Session occasionally asks the committee to find candidates to serve on a board or council, which assists Session in carrying out its duties. Every effort is made to present a diverse slate, taking into consideration age groups and gender, as well as their gifts and talents.

The **2023-2024 Nominating Committee** includes the following individuals:

ElizaBeth Phillips, Moderator, Class of 2025  
Kathy Lewin, Member At-Large Class of 2025  
Laura Garwood, Member At-Large Class of 2024  
Paul Shultz, Member-At-Large Class of 2025  
Vacant, Deacon Representative  
Pastor Keith DeVries, Ex Officio