



THE

MISSION BELL

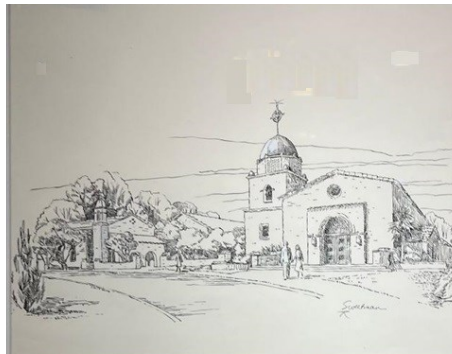
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2024

Volume LXIV Number 1

New Art Show: “Houses of Worship” – Part 1

Artist and CPC member **Linda Sweetman** is displaying her wonderful drawings in our DeVries Gathering Place Gallery. In 1982, Linda’s historical opportunity began from her acquaintance with Peter Hayes, *The Sacramento Union’s* editorial page editor, and his



Artist *Linda Sweetman*’s sketch of CPC is part of the current “Houses of Worship” art show in the DeVries Gathering Place.

wife, Carol Lou. At that time Linda had been enjoying many avenues

of art, but not in pen and ink, nor in architectural drawing. Yet, she was asked to draw and write the history of churches in a weekly Op-Ed series, that featured drawings and brief histories of local churches. She accepted this challenge, and its steep and humbling learning curve. This

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SAVE the DATE

20th
Planting Seeds
of Faith

Luncheon & Auction

Sunday, April 28

Pastor Keith L. DeVries Writes:
“Praising God and Serving the Community Since 1923”

What an amazing year 2023 was, filled with so many blessings and challenges: blessings of our history together as CPC turned 100, blessings of being honored and humbled as you renamed the Gathering Place the “DeVries Gathering Place” in recognition of my 22 years as your pastor, making me the longest serving pastor in CPC’s history to date, and the devastation and grief of the passing of our oldest child, Kristel Lynn DeVries. The outpouring of your love, grace, and support has been overwhelming and we are truly grateful.

Following our daughter’s death, I came across an email that Kristel sent to me on June 10, at 2:25 in the morning. Amidst all the emails I get, this one somehow got lost and I didn’t discover it until after Kristel had died on October 15. I shared this email with Carrie Lane, my friend and former associate pastor at Community Presbyterian Church in Vallejo, and she read it as part of her remarks at Kristel’s memorial service on January 14. Kristel’s message is titled, “The Gift of Service,” and is a collection of her thoughts on being a servant people in a servant community. As I read her email, I regret not seeing it until after her death, but I am grateful that she speaks to me through it now. I share it with you, followed by a few of my comments:

A thought...

The gift of service.

Geez! Now that we are back in the world we get to thank all of these lovely people that stuck it out. Restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals and so much more. And while it's not all done yet... we need to talk about serving.

The gift of being a servant of god takes so many forms. Right?

We take for granted the things others do in their occupation or just out of good will. Community service, community parks and gardens, you name it.

(Bible verse not found that I like)

But what's so hopeful is moving forward. We are servants of God. We have the opportunity to just do great things - small or large.

It's not every day you get to see a random act of kindness or serving outside of your community, but when you do, that's faith. There isn't a right answer to the act. It's the faith.

We serve our lord but we also serve our community, friends, family... and we have to trust in this. We have faith in humanity and as a church we show that through our food closet, camp programs and we don't stop there.

So to serve. Is that on a silver platter? No. Although we probably all like some good prime rib on a platter. To serve is to be of service. To join forces and make sure we are all building something important. We take care of our children, neighbors and community.

What does that look like? It's not a one size fits all situation, but the core is the same. (Need Jesus insight here). But what matters is that core foundation of serving in the way our gospel has encouraged us to do so.

(More gospel I can't find or poetry)

This is the great news! We can attain this goal. Minor or major. Big or small. But what I encourage everyone to do now is look around and see what you feel you want to do. This will be fun!

Serve and be served. Amen.

(Stupid?)

Love you dad

(Continued on page 3)

... From Pastor Keith ...

(Continued from page 2)

Service is a gift! What a wonderful characterization! A gift to be given, a gift to be received, a gift that takes so many forms. It is a gift that includes random acts of kindness, of taking care of each other, our children, our neighbors, our community. And I appreciate, that in the midst reflecting on service, she shared her thought processes in parentheses – (Bible verse, not found that I like), (Need Jesus insight here), (More gospel I can't find or poetry), (Stupid?).

No, Kristel, not stupid at all! Thanks for sharing your ramblings on service as a reminder to all of us that service is both a gift from God and our gift to God.

Here are Kristel's words once again: *"This is the great news! We can attain this goal. Minor or major. Big or small. But what I encourage everyone to do now is look around and see what you feel you want to do. This will be fun! Serve and be served."*

May we all embody this very good news as we respond to this call to serve our Lord.

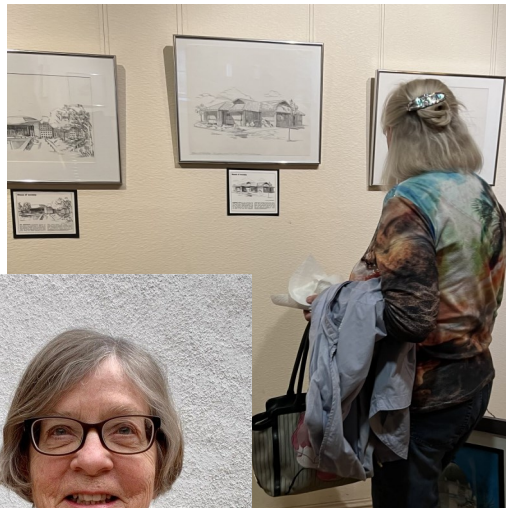
... Art Show ...

(Continued from page 1)

began her busy job of learning about these churches, while drawing what they looked like at that time. Each one was unique and was featured weekly in *The Sacramento Union* newspaper. Linda went through an evolution throughout this task, as she felt that her style improved from a sketchy rendering to a more skilled ink work style.

In part 1 of this series, you will see over 20 of these church sketches. Under each drawing, is the history Linda wrote to be published with each drawing. Linda enjoyed the church visits, the sketching on-site, and the interviews with many delightful people. Although her selection process was fairly random, it reflected her desire to include a broad variety of faiths. She

wanted to demonstrate how religious expression of many kinds is interwoven with other, more



Joyce Waggoner takes in some of the drawings on display in the current art show, which features sketches and writings by Linda Sweetman.

known parts of our local history. Linda was also impressed as she learned more about the co-operation of the earliest churches since the beginning of the Gold Rush, housing one another

as needed, after fires or floods.

In March, "Houses of Worship—Part 2" will exhibit 20 more of these drawings and history from her 1982-1983 series. We are grateful to Linda for sharing her collection of work with us.

Our next Artist Reception is Saturday, February 3 from 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. Along with Linda, we are inviting the churches that are on display to see her work too. Enjoy this "snapshot" from the early 1980's; a mere sampling of the Sacramento community's congregations.

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From Pastor Ivan N. Herman:

"Confirmation Conversations"

Growing up in a Baptist household, I was dedicated as an infant and baptized at age seven by immersion (dunking!); never had I even heard of confirmation until I was introduced to Presbyterians as a teenager. What is this thing you call "confirmation?" It seemed that some friends had gone through the confirmation process just because their parents wanted them to, or because their friends were doing it, but a precious few did experience it as an opportunity to make or confirm their own personal faith commitment.

Around the third century, confirmation (which was unified with the rites of baptism and the eucharist) held weighty meaning. Participants were required to take part in a vigorous three-year process of catechesis, or formal training. At the time, choosing to belong to the church contained such social and spiritual ramifications that it was not a decision to be made lightly. Between AD 500 and 1500 there was a decline in significance as confirmation lost its connection with other rites of Christian initiation and came to

be rationalized as a "second stage" or completion of baptism. With the onset of the Reformation of the 1500s, Protestants rejected the sacramental standing of confirmation and chose to replace it with a course of instruction that continues to be a model for many confirmation programs today. John Calvin asserted that only baptism and Holy Communion were sacraments, regarding other rites as "empty show,"

and advocated education as the means by which one learned both to submit to God's authority and to live as one of the spiritually elect.

The Presbyterian Church carries on this tradition of education while still grappling with a measure of sacramental weight within confirmation. Though not a sacrament, one must be baptized to be confirmed. And for the many youth who were baptized as infants, confirmation marks the first public participation in the liturgical life of the church of their own volition.

When *The Confirmation*

Project based out of Princeton Seminary surveyed five different denominations and asked about people's memories about their own confirmation class, they found that young and older adults alike speak of the quality of time and relationship, not of liturgical memories or educational content. They remember personal testimonies; they remember conversations of the integration of school, work, family life, and faith; and they remember being valued, listened to, set apart, lifted up and prioritized by the church, *relationally*.

Lisa Kimball, a steering team member of The Confirmation Project, writes: "Confirmation is not a sacrament in search of a meaning. It is an opportunity for a life-shaping encounter with the church."

Carmichael Presbyterian Church already offers ongoing Christian education and formation opportunities for our students, so our 2024 confirmation class will not rely heavily on educational curriculum. We desire for this confirmation class to be a "life-shaping encounter with the church," and that comes about through relationships and faith conversations between our young people and adult mentors.

(Continued on page 5)

Children's and Youth Ministry Update

by Michael Lombrano, Children's and Youth Ministry Director

Hey, Carmichael Presbyterian Church! We have a lot of upcoming in 2024. Did you know we have an email list? This is the best way to stay in the loop with any upcoming events and opportunities for your children and youth! Email Michael@carmichaelpres.org and let me know if you want to be on that mailing list.

Children and Youth Info meeting: One thing I want to make sure you know about is the Children and Youth information meeting. This meeting is ideal for parents to learn about what we are doing and planning in 2024. At this meeting we are going to be releasing our Summer 2024 Calendar with event dates through August.

Youth Group will be continuing to meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8 :00 p.m.

Here are upcoming events for the Spring

SPRING 2024 EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's Game Night January 26th• Youth Minigolf January 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Skate Night February 24th @Foothill Skate Inn
MARCH	APRIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's Trampoline Park Adventure March 9th• Ridiculousness (Youth Only) March 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's Movie Night April 19th• 30 Hour Famine (Youth Only) April 5th - 7th

EMAIL MICHAEL@CARMICHAELPRES.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

... From Pastor Ivan ...

(Continued from page 4)

This model of confirmation reflects our mission statement:

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

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

If you would like to participate in confirmation either as a

youth (ages 12-18) confirmand or as an adult mentor, please contact **Michael Lombrano** or **Pastor Ivan**.

Our 2024 Confirmation will begin with conversations on the first three Sundays of March at 11:00 a.m. The month of April will be dedicated to conversations with mentors and a meeting with the church session. We will recognize our confirmands and receive them into the active

membership of the church on Youth Sunday/Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

This newsletter article includes content adapted from an article by Nina Simone, "21st-century Confirmation" in the September 11, 2017 issue of the *Presbyterian Outlook*. The full article may be found at <https://pres-outlook.org/2017/09/21st-century-confirmation/>

Lenten Book Study on *transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians*

by Rebecca Cameron

I am writing to invite you to a Lenten study of the book, *transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke.

This book is included on the PC (USA) website as a resource providing a distinctively Christian case for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the church. A goal of this study is to grow in our individual and collective welcome toward many who have found they cannot take hospitality, nor even basic safety, for granted. The book engages the complexity of scripture and tradition, and the ways that scripture and the life of Jesus provide a foundation for that welcome. We will meet every Sunday from February 11 through March 17 in the Howard Crowley Room, right after 10 am services, from 11-12:15. And, yes, there will be cookies!

As I shared in services on January 21, my pronouns are she/her/hers. I identify as cis-

gender, which means that my experience of myself matches the gender I was assigned at birth based on the appearance of my body. This is in contrast

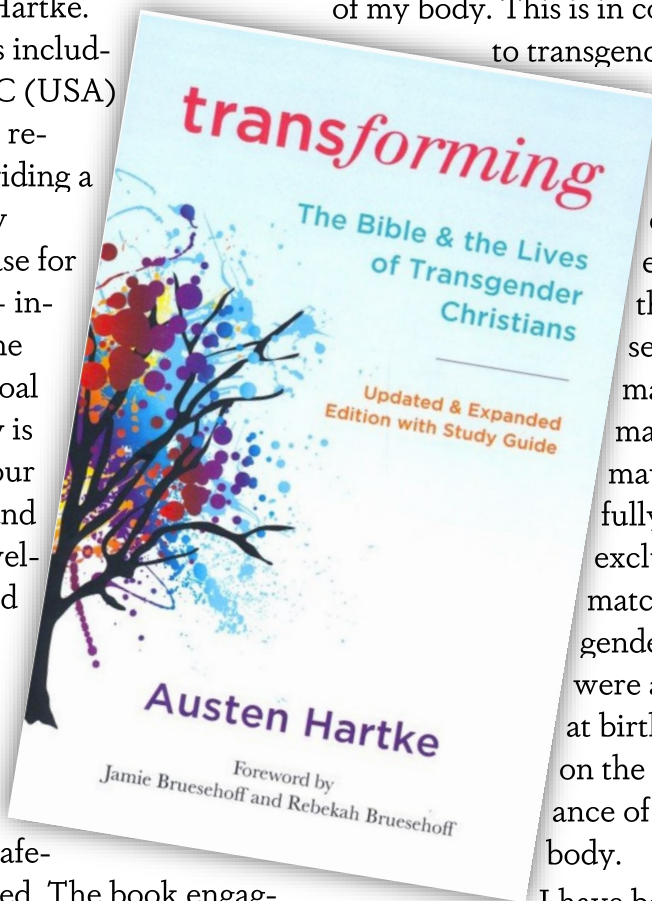
to transgender, in which a person's experience of themselves may not match or may not fully and exclusively match the gender they were assigned at birth based on the appearance of their body.

I have been blessed to know and love friends, colleagues, and family members whose identities and pronouns are more complex, varied, and sometimes unexpected than my experience has been of my gender. I have been further and deeply blessed by their patience with and their lovingness towards me, and all the hiccups and resistance in my learning process, as I have learned to affirm and embrace

them as they are. It is a gift to be invited to expand my narrow construction of gender, and a joy to develop a more inclusive understanding. Despite the progress I have made, my learning needs to be continuous, as it is always imperfect. I've witnessed the anguish of people who are not seen, not respected, or are cast out based on a non-traditional gender experience, and the joy and relief when people find safe places where they are honored and embraced for who they are.

I have always seen God's love as expansive and inclusive, and one of the reasons that my faith is so important to me is that it calls me to be okay with whatever discomforts might arise in the service of love. I invite you to join me in deepening our understanding, risking the discomfort of not-knowing, and not being fluent, or knowing and being fluent but not being sure we will be heard and understood, in the service of God's expansive and inclusive love.

Buy your book Sunday, February 4 in the DeVries Gathering Place for \$15, or in the church office or at our first class on February 11.



Presbyterian Women Sacred Encounters: The Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

by Terry Sakuda

The Presbyterian Women
2023-2024 Bible Study: *Sacred
Encounters, Presence of Jesus
Christ in Luke-Acts* Continues
with Lesson 6 on February 8.

Lesson 6:

**A Person with a Physical Dis-
ability Encounters Jesus**

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

During this lesson we will
learn the story about how the
apostles healed a man with a
physical disability. One of the
roles of the apostles,
when Jesus was no
longer with them in
the flesh, was to
continue to heal
those with physical
disabilities. We will
discuss the new
roles of the apostles
and how the power
and presence of the
Holy Spirit accom-
panied them in their
ministry. To obtain
a better under-
standing of the sto-
ry we will discuss the time of



*"A Person with a Physical Disability En-
counters Jesus" Acts 3:1-10 is the Febru-
ary PW study lesson.*

prayer and the location of the
Beautiful Gate.

One way to
explore the
study is by at-
tending our
Pastor-led
study via
Zoom on the
second Thurs-
day of the
month at 10:00
a.m. Contact
Karen Gray in
the office and
she will be
happy to in-
clude you on
the list to receive the Zoom

Welcome, New Members!

These new members were received by Session on October 21,
2023 and welcomed during worship on December 10, 2023. We are
grateful they have joined our faith community!



(L to R):

**Cathy Galvin, Anita Lawson,
Janice Nielsen, Niel Nielsen**

link. All are welcome.

PW Circles are another way
to learn more about the study.
On the third Thursday of the
month Naomi Circle meets in
the Gathering Place at 9:30 a.m.
(Leader: **Bonnie Hard**) and
Mary Martha Circle meets in
the Parlor at 1:00 p.m. (Co-
Leader **Kathy Daigle**). All
women of CPC are invited to
visit a meeting. Come check us
out!

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

These are the persons in whose name memorial gifts were made during the third and fourth quarter of 2023, along with the donors and the designated use of those gifts.

<u>THOSE REMEMBERED/HONORED</u>	<u>DONORS</u>	<u>DESIGNATIONS</u>
Skip, Bob & Mike Seekins	Scott Seekins (July, August, September, October, November, & December)	Parking Lot
Miriam Fishel	Susan Fishel and Family	Food Closet
Ginny Rodgers	Carolyn & Gordon McGregor	Supper on Saturday
	Bette Johnson	Planting Seeds of Faith
	Donna & Howard Ross	Food Closet
	Barbara Farley	Supper on Saturday
	Sharon Burk	Parking Lot
	Lisa Benadom	Parking Lot
	Danise Skewis	Parking Lot
	Len Tozier	Parking Lot
	Carol & Harry Jones	Parking Lot
	Janann Poteet	Choir
	Paul & Lynn Shultz	Parking Lot
Mary Buehler	Paul Buehler	Food Closet
Joe St. Clair	Paul Buehler	Choir
Lee Ridgeway	Donna & Howard Ross	Food Closet
Raymelle King	Lisa Benadom	Undesignated
Francis Gordon	Janice Nielsen	Undesignated
In Honor of Joan & Billy Bristow	Lisa Benadom	Undesignated
In Honor of George Burbank	Lisa Benadom	Undesignated
In Honor of Ele Crispell	Lisa Benadom	Undesignated
Jean Brown	Lisa Benadom	Undesignated
	Annette Davis	Children's Choir
	Carol & Harry Jones	Choir

(Continued on page 9)

... Memorial and Honorary Gifts ...

(Continued from page 8)

THOSE REMEMBERED/HONORED DONORS

Loris & Rolland Walker

Walker Family

Charleen Lee

Keith & Kathleen McBride

Mary Kroger

Keith & Kathleen McBride

Kristel DeVries

Len Tozier

Janann Poteet

Paul & Lynn Shultz

Rob & Claudia Hollingsworth

Christine Dunn

Douglas Weill

Sharon Wise

Harry Lindley

Beth Lindley

DESIGNATIONS

Christmas Gift Ministry

Undesignated

Undesignated

Parking Lot

Choir

Parking Lot

Technology

Undesignated

Undesignated

Food Closet

In Our Church Family

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

✠ Jack & Kate Eisel and family on the loss of their sister-in-law, **Patricia Carlson** on December 5.

✠ Keith and Jenny DeVries and family on the loss of Keith's uncle, **Albert Carlson** on December 2.

✠ the family of **Diane Cloud**, who passed away recently.

✠ the family of **Ele Crispell**, who passed away on January 1.

✠ **Jack Brown** and family on the loss of his wife, **Danelle Brown**, on January 2

✠ **Lisa Levering** and family on the loss of her sister, **Cathy Canaday**, on January 3

✠ **Doris Beckert** and family on the loss of her husband, **Bob Beckert**, on January 4

✠ **Osita Kamalu**, **Nonye Ejiogu**, **Ihuoma Uba** and families on the loss of their mother, **Regina Kamalu**.



Local Mission Ministries

by Barbara Farley

Carmichael HART

(Homeless Assistance Resource Team)

CPC and eight other churches as well as members of the Carmichael community support Carmichael HART's goal of finding ways to support and house the unhoused in our community.

Robertson House and Charlotte House were closed for six months when Sacramento Self Help Housing closed. HART has now contracted with City Net to provide case-worker services and both houses are accepting residents – men at Robertson House (on our CPC campus) and women at Charlotte House.

Every Thursday volunteers gather in our Food Closet to make 40 lunches which they deliver to the unhoused in Carmichael.

Every Saturday volunteers provide a meal and showers CPC for 30 or more unhoused individuals.

Supper on Saturday

On the third Saturday of

every month a volunteer team prepares a special sit-down meal for anyone who wants a good meal and companionship.

Our guests especially appreciate the flowers on the tables and the service of the meal on china with silverware.

Carmichael Food Closet

The Food Closet is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Thursday evenings.

During the day we serve 30

families and on Thursday nights we serve as many as 50 families.

During October, schools in Carmichael collected nonperishable food to stock our shelves. Volunteers are in the process of sorting the 17,300 pounds (almost 9 tons) of items and storing them in their designated places.

The Food Closet has been a ministry at CPC for 50 years. When we started, the CPC family did all the organizing and

distribution, then other churches joined to help us. Now more than 50% of our volunteers are from the Carmichael area and not affiliated with any congregation.

Family Promise

Yes, we are still supporting Family Promise, but in new and different ways.

Four times a year we have a week assigned to Family Promise. The families that used to stay at churches are now housed in Safe Harbor, a community of three tiny homes with a central kitchen and bathroom. CPC volunteers go to Safe Harbor during the assigned week to help with maintenance and provide some special meals.

All of these programs are staffed by volunteers, and we need more people to help.

You can explore the options when there is an Opportunity Knocks table or contact any member of the CPC's Mission Division to find your place:

Dave Mathews

(mark7sax@gmail.com),

Barbara Farley

(b_farley@sbcglobal.net), **Bob**

Curtis

(rkcurtis6@comcast.net), **Re-**

becca Parker

(raparker52@gmail.com), or

John Wallace

(drjohnwallace@gmail.com).



Top: Carmichael HART volunteers serve Thanksgiving dinner for unhoused people in the Carmichael area. Right: The Carmichael Food Closet provides groceries for up to 130 families each week.



Lost and Found

by Anne Parker

The Lost and Found is brimming with items that want to return to their rightful owners: books, clothing, scarves, keys, glasses, and more. Visit the Welcome Center on a Sunday morning to retrieve items you may have misplaced at church.

The items will be on display in the DeVries Gathering Place on Sundays in February. Items that are unclaimed by the end of February will be donated to a local thrift store.

If you find an item left behind, add the item to the lost and found shelf in the Welcome Center or notify an usher.



Showing Love

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

*Therefore, as God's choice,
holy and loved, put on
compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness, and patience...*

*And over all these things put
on love, which is the perfect bond
of unity.*

(Colossians 3:12 & 14)

The New Testament is full of Scripture reminding us of this. It is the basis of being a “follower of Jesus,” to show love above all. But what does that look like for us in our daily walk as Christians? It can be actions as simple as slowing down and really listening to what someone is saying (instead of thinking of what you will say next), offering a word of encouragement or a hug when someone seems sad, or even introducing yourself and talking to someone you don't know at church. Sometimes it means stepping out of your own comfort zone to help someone else feel like they are “seen.” Sometimes it may take courage, to welcome and accept those who have been rejected by society.

Remember the story (Mark 10:46-52), where Bartimaeus, a

blind beggar, had been yelled at by the crowds when he asked for mercy from Jesus? Then, when Jesus showed favorable reception to Bartimaeus, Jesus' compassion and respect turned the crowd's rebukes into cheerful acceptance of Bartimaeus, as they began to see his worth as well.

When we truly welcome **all**, like our mission statement proclaims, and we make all feel welcome, we're showing God's love to

others. When we are present for a hurting friend, offering meals, a listening ear, just being there with them, we are extending God's love. We all wish we could solve our own and our loved one's problems, yet that oftentimes isn't possible. However, we can be *present* for them. We can encourage that hurting individual to reach out to us, their pastor, and/or a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry is another way our congregation shows God's love to people who have deep needs for care. Stephen Ministers are trained to offer confidential, Christ-centered

care, to be a sounding board, a nonjudgmental, compassionate friend, someone who walks alongside and extends caring, empathetic listening, and compassion. This care goes on for as long as the individual needs it, meeting weekly, one-to-one, for about an hour each week.

If you or someone you know is facing a particularly difficult time, consider reaching out for a Stephen Minister. For more information about receiving care from a Stephen Minister or to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister, contact a Stephen Leader:

Len Tozier, Misty Dunn, Mary Thomas, or John Wallace.



MISSION BELL DEADLINE

10th of each
month

for the following month's
issue



Submit articles to:

Karen Gray at

karen@carmichaelpres.org
or mail/drop off a hard
copy in the church office.

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Marinerships

Clipper Ship

The Clipper Ship Mariners gathered on Saturday, December 9 at noon in the DeVries Gathering Place for a delightful holiday lunch and fellowship. **Kate Erlich** and **Janann Poteet** were instrumental in the planning for the meeting. **Carol Dobler** and **Jim Hill** also provided assistance.

Before our feast, **Thelma Wever** graciously led us in a scripture reading, concluding with a heartfelt prayer. The buffet spread featured an array of delicious sandwiches, salads, and an abundance of delectable desserts—all thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

For our festive activity, members brought wrapped Christmas ornaments to exchange with each other, resulting in a lively and enjoyable swapping session. The diverse assortment of ornaments added to the holiday spirit. We also engaged in an entertaining quiz, attempting to fill in the blanks for ten different questions related to cakes. For instance, a cake that resides at the bottom of the ocean floor is referred to as a

_____ (best answer: "sponge cake". Crab cake also fits but was the solution to a different question).

The Clipper Ship Mariners



Clipper Ship members (front L to R) Carol Dobler, Bob Taylor, Thelma Wever, Karla Curran, Janann Poteet, Dick Strader; (back L to R) Jim Hill, Jan Hill, Bob Bergsten, and Ed Hills enjoy a holiday lunch in the DeVries Gathering Place.

group, though smaller in size now, cherishes these occasional gatherings throughout the year, fostering camaraderie and shared moments of joy.

Companionship

On December 9 the Companionship met at **Nancy and Dave Studer's** home for our annual Christmas Caroling event. Once everyone had arrived, we drove to Eskaton Village to sing for the people in the Memory Care unit. We were joined by two of **Priscilla Mauerman's** friends who had beautiful voices, and it was great to see many of the residents singing and nodding along. From Eskaton we drove

to the homes of **Dave Beeby**, **Sharlene St. Clair** (recently injured in a fall), and **Jane and Harvey Swenson**, who offered us warm cider and Christmas cookies following our singing.

Back at the Studers' we snacked on delicious snacks and desserts and gathered for our traditional white elephant exchange. **Elayne Anderson's** precious gift was wrapped in at least one "Mega" roll of toilet paper. **Marti Wallace** was the lucky winner of a Measuring Cube: a hollow plastic cube designed to hold exactly 1 cup of flour or sugar or ... ? On the sides were pockets designed to hold exactly 1 T., 1 t., 1/2 t., etc. The most exciting gift at all was **Hal Millering's** yodeling cucumber, a big hit for all. Hal even threatened to take it to church on Sunday in case the sermon needed to be shortened. We all had a great time oohing and ahing over all the treasures and considering ourselves well-gifted.

On January 6, we gathered for an Epiphany Celebration at **Barbara and Tim Farley's**. A wonderful and festive room met us in the Farley's activity space. Warm and cold drinks plus sweet and savory snacks were all delicious. We enjoyed visiting but missed many from our ranks, including **Elayne Anderson**, who has broken bones in her hand and **Chris and Dave** (Continued on page 14)

... More Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 13)

Beeby who have bad colds. Tim Farley was happy to have seen Duane Johnson at the men's morning fellowship.

We held a brief business meeting to collect dues, schedule the next few "Soup of the Month" deliveries, and choose a couple of months to supply cookies for Sunday morning coffee fellowship.

The Ship Programs for 2024 put together by Barbara were passed out and admired.



Skipjacks enjoying their holiday party include (clockwise from top): 1) Doris Beckert; 2) Carole Jacobi, Tony Perrou, and Dick Jacobi; 3) Debbie Cameron, Margo Scandella, Jimmi Mishler, and Bette Johnson, and 4) Gail Jenkins, Carolyn Biggers, and Glenda Perrou.

Barbara reminded us that January 6 is Epiphany—the twelfth day after Christmas—and how she loved to have their crèche scene up so the three wise men could be searching the house until they found the manger.

We then had a short time of sharing about favorite Christmas memories plus a brick layer story of Dave Studer's. The on-

ly gift that all desired for 2024 was Peace. Ending the meeting was our ceremony to install new officers for the year.

Skipjacks

Spirits were high when we gathered at Dick and Carole Jacobi's for our annual Christmas luncheon and Secret Pal reveal on December 7. The

ice cream.

Margo Scandella read the names of the new officers for 2024. Thanks to the outgoing and congratulations to the incoming!

Greeting cards were delivered to each person and their 2023 secret pal was revealed. A couple of cards took aim at snowmen who melted through unfortunate use of several types of heat. There was a herd of bulls with sound effects, and several puns (What do you call a polar bear on the beach? Sandy Claws)

Gail Jenkins celebrated her 52 years as a Skipjack with a poem, part of which read: "The group is now crippled, wrin-

kled and lame. To help their minds they play any mind game.

But after 52 years

they are not the same, but having happiness is still their aim."

The drawing of next year's Secret Pals was, once again, not without flaw. Following Bob Beckert's carefully thought-out instructions, Doris Beckert led the process step by step, but even so, things did not ultimately add up. And so it goes.

Oakmont fireside room was decorated with holiday reds, and easily accommodated the 17 who came.

Tony Perrou, our poet laureate, read his Ode to Christmas, passed out copies of memories of Christmas written by members several years ago, and said a rhymed blessing. The staff served us our choices from the menu, topped off with pie and

Our CPC Staff

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

- The Rev. Keith L. DeVries**
The Rev. Ivan N. Herman
Keith Atwater, Music Director
Rick Schlosser,
Organist & Interim Bell Choir Director
Michael Lombrano,
Children's & Youth Ministry Director
Paul & Mary Camozzi,
Childcare Providers
Karen Gray,
Executive Assistant
Julie Ueltzen,
Church Secretary
Paul Shultz,
Financial Administrator
Ron Morris,
Maintenance Manager
Christian Bolen, Custodian
Megan Dye,
Food Closet Operations Manager
Gabe Bisho, Pianist
Will Condrey, Drummer
Michael Schwab, Guitarist
Merlyn Van Regenmorter,
Bassist
Steve Parker, **Bruce MacLean**,
Michael Gray, **Noor Bitar**,
Avonlee Janik, and
David Stoffel,
Audio/Video Technicians

Our Mission

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

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



Contact Us



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Karen Gray	201	Keith Atwater	208

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Sundays @ CPC

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

A blend of traditional and contemporary music styles provide bring new life to the Word. Worship in the Sanctuary or join online. Go to youtube.com/@carmichaelpres or search for “carmichaelpres” on the YouTube app or your Smart TV.



Children's Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

All children are welcome and encouraged to attend worship. Following the Time for Young People, kids age 4-5th grade are dismissed to their class. Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available throughout the morning.



Coffee Fellowship Waterfall Singers & Youth School Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

Visit and enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie while you browse the Art Exhibit in the Gathering Place or chat with friends old and new following worship.

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade can join CPC's children's choir, Waterfall Singers.

