THE MISSION BELL
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
August 2022 Volume LXII Number 7

All Church Picnic Fun Despite Stormy Weather

It was a dark and stormy morning…June 5, 2022, in Sacramento, the morning of the All Church Picnic! Fortunately, the rain tapered off in time for folks to gather at Gibbons Park for lunch, fellowship, fun and games. **Maria Brow**, Elder for Fellowship & Nurture and **Anne Parker**, Elder for Membership & Outreach, partnered together to plan the afternoon.

(Continued on page 3)

Celebrating Life with Artist Diane Matter

Enjoy the beautiful paintings of **Dianne Matter** in the CPC Gathering Place for the next several months. Dianne began her career as an educator on the East Coast. She has a passion for travel and teaching, which she now expresses in her art. After a career in technology, a life-changing event gave Dianne the opportunity to reevaluate her values. She began to explore her creativity as an expression of her love and appreciation of God, her freedom as an American, and her family.

You can see Dianne's depth of experience, love of people, and her gratitude for God's imagination in her paintings. Her

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From Pastor Ivan N. Herman:

"Listening to Sermons"

We all listen to and process sermons in different ways. Some like to jot down notes, others listen silently and think about some insight or other, the brain jumping between tangents, and then getting drawn back into the moment. To be sure, some people use the time to write a grocery list. Some, like my eldest, like to doodle. Here's a gem from June 2018.

"The bubbles are like God's love. Blow them during my sermon secretly. God's love is unexpected, surprising, and disruptive."

© Camilla J. Herman, used by permission.

… All Church Picnic…

(Continued from page 1)

They secured the gazebo (thank you, **Rodney Dahlberg,** for your help with park reservations) so the brief occasional sprinkles were not a problem and later on the sun came out from behind the clouds.

Picnic goers played spike ball, corn hole, and learned a new game called Petanque (which is somewhat like bocce ball) thanks to the guidance of Anne's brother, **Adam Grace**. This game was a big hit with the youth. Kids and adults played kick ball as well. **Lynette Ledesma** and daughters, **Chloe** and **Claire**, won the pie bake-off contest with their delicious homemade apple pie. We got to learn fun facts about each other and win prizes while playing Get to Know You Bingo. Keep an eye out for the next all Church Picnic date. Hope to see you there!

… Celebrating Life…

(Continued from page 1)

work has been honored at many local, as well as international, art exhibits. She hopes her art will spark a love of life and adventure, bringing you a bit of joy and contentment. Dianne is active in the local community of artists and teaches watercolor classes. She takes great pleasure in supporting and encouraging other artists of all levels to express their own creativity without limits.

The paintings of Dianne Matter are on display in the Gathering Place.

Dianne celebrates life through her artwork. Each piece of art starts with an urgency to express her appreciation for God's abundance and our freedom. You can see her passion and emotion in the color, line, and texture of her paintings, from bold bursts of color expressing joy and exuberance in her flowers to her tranquil landscapes reflecting her love of nature. The textures in her paintings convey the complexities and layers of life.

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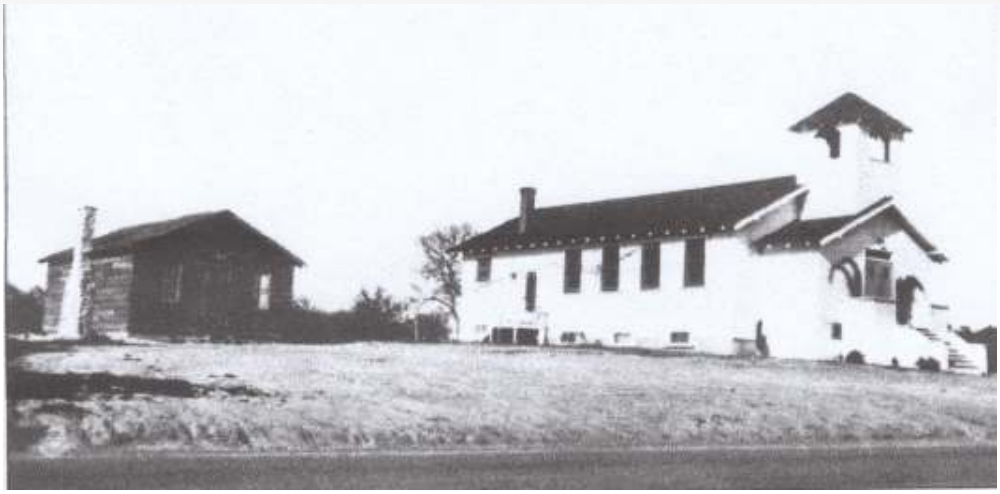
A Little Bit of Centennial History

by Karen Orlando

In 1923 as Carmichael Community Church was officially established, Carmichael Grammar School on Sutter Ave, was its home. The trustees of the Carmichael School District considered the usage of the school for a place of worship as a perfectly logical use of the facility. In fact, the school played the critical role of a community center. As the school grew from a single two– room building to double its size, the enrollment of the church grew as well. In 1923 almost 90 people attended church, and the Sunday School had 134 kids. All four rooms of the school and an outbuilding called the music room were fully utilized on a Sunday morning. For the first time since its formation the church began to consider building its own permanent place of worship.



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

True to Presbyterian form, a committee was formed to spend untold amounts of hours examining the issues. By the following December $2,500.00 was in the building fund and an architect was commissioned to draw up a blueprint for a building that would be approximately 28 feet by 50 feet in size.

With plans in place, it was time to find a site for this new church. Not without controversy, the Church Building Committee waited almost two years before selecting the final site. Three different properties had been proposed, with each site favoring a different section of Carmichael. The first site was a half-acre of land beside a filling station located at the bend of Fair Oaks Highway. The second site was a piece of property offered by Mrs. Warren on Palm Drive. The third property was the property of Mr. H. A. Hobbs on Marconi Ave. 1926 had seen the paving of Marconi Avenue. One can only imagine that paved roads might have helped the committee move forward on a decision. The *San Juan Record* reported that Hobbs donated the land on May 11, 1927. Hobbs offered the site, the lot occupied by the present church building on Marconi Avenue, as a gift with the privilege of purchase of (the) adjoining lot on the west. The church accepted the offer.

Legend has it, when Mr. Hobbs presented the land to the church, he said, "I haven't been able to make a thing grow on this piece, but maybe a church will grow there." Pastor Jim Clark received a letter in 1992 from Hobbs's niece, Betty, reaffirming that statement. She said, "I can remember hearing many times that Uncle Henry donated that land to God's work since he could never get it to 'work' for him." Call it a legend or call it fact; legend became truth as God's work started to grow at 5645 Marconi Avenue for Carmichael Community Church in 1927 and has flourished for nearly 100 years.

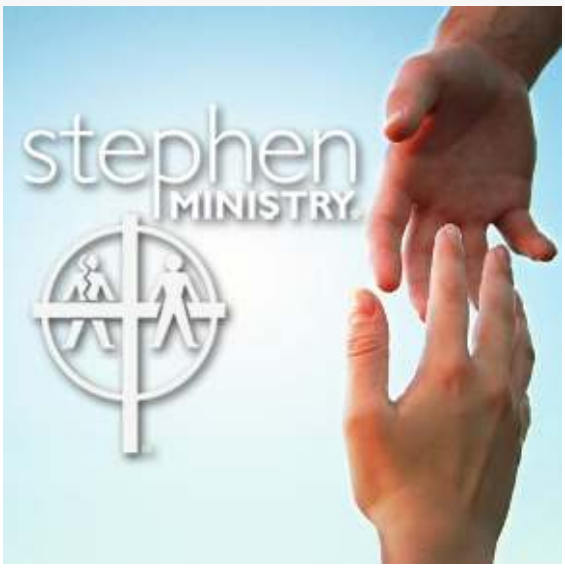
Our church story to be continued…

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

Extending God's Love to Those in Crisis

by Misty Dunn Stephen Minister/Leader

We live in an action-oriented culture. The emphasis is on *doing,* and when a problem occurs, we want to *solve* it as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, there is usually no quick fix for the painful and complex problems people experience. In actual fact, while you may want to help, you are not obligated to *solve* the crisis that overwhelms another person. The best way you can help is by being there in supportive ways that help mobilize the person's own resources and faith to cope with whatever is happening.



But how do you do that? How do you learn the skills that encourage a person embroiled in a personal crisis to work through and overcome the crisis by him or herself? Here's the good news: the skills needed are all taught in the Stephen Minister training. This training equips Stephen Ministers to offer confidential, one-to-one ministry to hurting individuals. As caring Lay Ministers, they have responded to Christ's call to "*carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*" (Gal. 6:2) All anyone needs to bring to the training is a compassionate heart, a willingness to learn, an honest desire to respect and understand others, and faith in God.

The Christian faith is centered on the fact that God's grace and love are expressed in human relationships. Those who respond to God's love and accept the responsibility to carry that same love to others who need it, extend the presence and availability of God's love in a hurting world. Stephen Ministers do that by meeting weekly with their care receiver to encourage, pray with and for them, and listen empathetically and nonjudgmentally to whatever that person wants to share with them. The Stephen Minister is not there to solve the care receiver's problems, yet together with God's help, the individual usually finds ways to move forward toward healing and wholeness.

Please prayerfully consider joining other caring members of CPC to be trained as a Stephen Minister and learn how to extend the love of Christ to those who are experiencing a difficult time. As another incentive, those taking the training also enrich their own interpersonal communication skills, which helps in their own family and work relationships. We hope to have a new Stephen Ministry training class this fall if enough people are interested. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please talk to one of the pastors or contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders: **Misty Dunn**, **Kelly Holland**, **Mary Thomas**, or **John Wallace**.

Help Us Keep in Touch!

If you've moved or changed your phone number or email, be sure to let the church office know! Help us keep you up to date and connected.

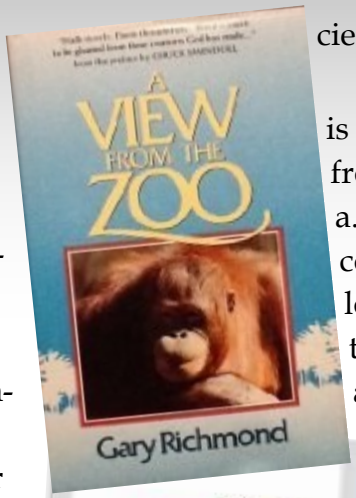
Just contact **Julie Ueltzen,** Church Secretary by leaving a voicemail message at 916-486-9081, ext. 200 OR emailing carmichaelpres@gmail.com OR sending a note to CPC, 5645 Marconi Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608-4498.

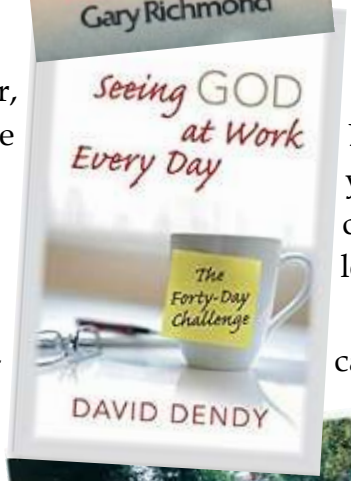
Library Corner:
Finding God in the Unusual

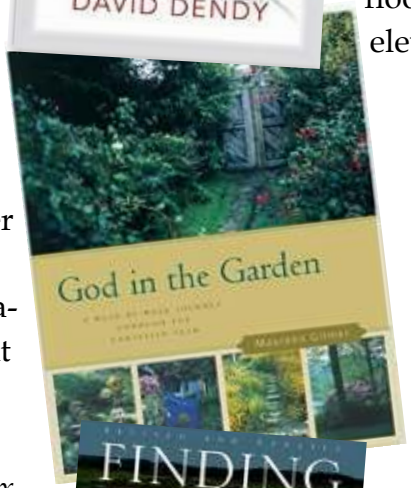
by Doris Beckert, Church Librarian

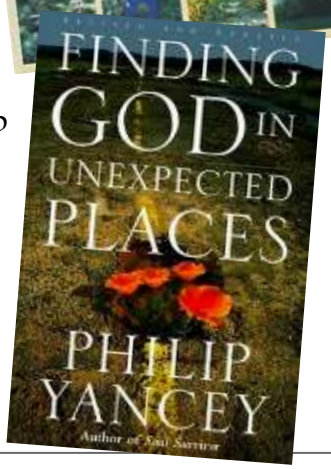
Another hour of browsing in the church library revealed these gems about where to find God: not in the usual places.

- *A View from the Zoo*, by Gary Richmond (242 Ric) Once a zookeeper and now a minister, Richmond tells true life animal stories.
- *Seeing God at Work Every Day,* by David Dendy. (242.2 Den) You may recognize this minister's name from leading past CPC capital campaigns.
- *God in the Garden,* by Maureen Gilmer (242.2 Gil)Includes half weekly meditations and half plant information, with illustrations.
- *Finding God in Unexpected Places,* by Philip Yancey (242 Yan) Besides in the church, Yancey suggests God can be found among the headlines, on the job, in a fractured society, and in the cracks.









The church library is open on Sundays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to come in and look around, browse through the shelves, and pick out something to read there or at home. Checkout is self-serve. During the week you can ask at the church office to be let in.

The library is located on the second floor, right off the elevator.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to everyone at CPC for your support and prayers as we lost both Char and Laura over the past two years and celebrated their lives at the end of June.

We are grateful for those who came to their memorial service, sent cards, made memorial gifts, and showed God's love to our family.

May God bless you,

Bob Bergsten and family

Mission Bell Deadline

10th of each Month

for the following month's issue

Submit articles to:
Amy Lerseth,
Mission Bell Editor at
amylerseth@buzzoates.com

World Relief Afghan Ladies' ESL Graduations

Carmichael Presbyterian Church once again hosted graduations for Afghan ladies who passed English language tests at the end of their year-long weekly Zoom classes. Afghan ladies, CPC volunteers, and World Relief teachers and staff gathered on June 16 and 22. The first graduation was held in the Courtyard outside the Gathering Place, and the second, due to high heat, was held in McMillen Hall.

Both graduations were joyous events with each woman singled out for recognition of her accomplishments. Many moms brought their children, and CPC provided paper and crayons to keep the little ones occupied during the celebrations. World Relief and the graduates provided lunch, and there was a special cake with every graduate's name on it!

After the second graduation, **Heidi Guttschuss**, the World Relief Sacramento education director, shared a heartfelt thank you: "Graduation went SOOOOO well! Thank you all for everything you did to make it happen. While this is one of our smallest classes, it was our very first Pashto class, which is a big deal since historically that group has been more reserved. So, celebrating these women's first steps toward more education is a real milestone.

Each of you went above and beyond to make the venue look appealing, to welcome the women, to honor them as we served them food, and to make clean-up look instant and effortless (that's the front-of-house view; I know lots of scrubbing and sorting went on behind the scenes)."

The following volunteers made the graduations a success**: Marcia Weill, Misty Dunn, Kathy Lewis, Dani Romais, Peggy Krong, Mary Jane Bryan, Carol Jones, Mollie Romero, Rebecca Parker, Lora Cammack, Cheri Johnson,** and **Noor Bitar.**

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Mariner Ships

Companionship

A good time visiting and playing bocce ball was had by all on June 4. Thanks to **Elayne Anderson** for score keeping and to **Karen and Bud Banker** for arranging, and to **Randy Anderson** for game rules explained. The winners will remain anonymous. However, candy prizes were enjoyed by all, thanks to **Nina Henley**. Thanks to **Priscilla Mauerman** for taking excellent minutes and to Nina for her photographs!

Companionship members celebrated Independence Day with a barbecue and brief business meeting.

On July 2 the Companionship met for a lovely cool evening on the back deck of **Barbara and Tim Farley**'s house to celebrate Independence Day. Barbara and co-host **Terry Barto** served delicious snacks and iced tea, lemonade, and spritzers made with Aperol and Prosecco.

After our business meeting, Tim barbecued some giant hot dogs which we dressed up with condiments and added two delicious salads, a cucumber salad and a potato salad. We retired to the family room where we enjoyed our dinners while Barbara shared a list of titles for the various participants who play Corn Hole (a feature at last year's July gathering). Some examples: what do you call a corn hole tournament? A Cornament. An extremely confident cornhole player? A Cornstar. Three corn holes in a row? A Holy Moly Triple Cornholy. And that's not all!

Following a yummy dessert of ice cream Drumsticks, we took turns reading the Declaration of Independence paragraph by paragraph. Beyond the first section, which we all recognize and could probably recite from memory, it's amazing to read the list of iniquities the colonists had suffered at the hands of the British.

Our next meeting will be on August 6. If you'd like to visit our ship, please contact our Lookout **Sharlene St. Clair**.

Nautilus

On a cool, blustery pre-Fourth of July Saturday evening, 17 Nautilus shipmates gathered at **Jan Olson**'s 3-level backyard to celebrate both Independence Day and everyone's combined birthdays. No candles were on the cake since the total when lit would bring every fire engine in the area to our party. Instead, each person brought a gift for someone whose name they drew at our last event in June—except for those of us who wrapped our gifts anonymously, because we forgot which name we drew.

A special treat this year

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... More Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 8)

Nautilus shipmates gathered for the Fourth of July and celebrated all members' birthdays.

was the presence of a very skilled guitarist and composer, **Gerard Moran**, who played background music throughout the evening as well as some clever compositions of his own as we celebrated birthdays.

Jan responded to the shivering brought on by those of us who dressed for the usual Fourth of July weather by digging into her closets with as many jackets as she could find. After some patriotic singing and a Mexican-themed dinner, we opened the gifts. And what an assortment!

From **Tom Mock's** reMockable and delicious honey ("Mock-A-Bee Pure Raw Honey") to an amazing assortment of fly-fishing ties in a special box (given by fly-fisherman **Howard Ross** to fly fisherman **Wayne Reimers**), the gifts were unique and clever, often fitting the recipient perfectly.

These combined birthday celebrations have become a tradition we look forward to continuing every year, whether it's 70 degrees and windy or 105 and sweltering.

Skipjacks

On Saturday June 25, Skipjacks had a beautiful morning under a canopy of trees and trellises at the Loomis Flower Farm. Skipjack **Margo Scandella** and six of her fellow musicians played wonderful music including several Fourth of July melodies that entertained a full garden audience.

With beautiful music playing and the heat of the day at bay, listeners enjoyed the freshest of breakfast or lunch from the Flower Farm Cafe. (The Cafe features fresh fruit and vegetables from its farm on their menu.) Skipjacks and friends thoroughly enjoyed the music, food, and cool of the garden shade prior to the heat of the midday sun. Thank you, Margo, for providing us with light and heartfelt melodies. We missed several of our crew at the Farm and send our prayers and well wishes to **Bob and Doris Beckert, Gail Jenkins, Dick and Carole Jacobi,** and **Steve and Judy Harrison**.

Eleven theater lovers attended the June 30 Thursday matinee of "Carousel" at Music Circus and had a wonderful time. Dinner followed at Serritella's at Milagro Center.

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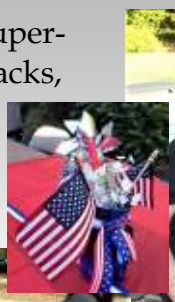
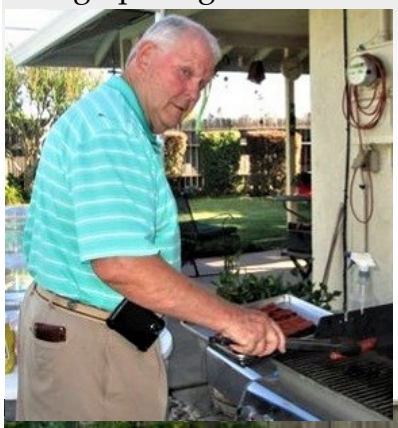
... End of the Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 9)

Carolee Roach's backyard was the place to be for a post 4th of July Patriotic Party, complete with **Tony Perrou** firing up the grill with hot dogs and the fixings, supervised by 12 other Skipjacks, including **Margo Scandella** and **Bep van der Mik**.





The Skipjacks crew has had a busy summer with music, food, theater, celebration, fellowship, and fun!

August Food Closet Volunteers of the Month

Nathanial and Chuck Bird
Food Closet Volunteers of the Month

The **Bird** family are some of our most amazing volunteers at the Food Closet. The family consists of **Chuck, Karen,** and **Nathanial**.

Karen first volunteered during the early stages of the pandemic after hearing about the Food Closet from Carmichael HART. She is a professional home health care provider and was not working because of the quarantine. That was CPC's lucky day as Karen worked several shifts a week for a number of months. Then Chuck, her husband, and Nathanial, her son, decided to volunteer also. They are a great team. The managers would just ask and they got it done!

When Karen went back to work, Chuck and Nathaniel kept volunteering. They now manage the warehouse on Wednesdays, receiving incoming groceries, stocking shelves, taking CPC's surplus to Crossroads Church for their food program (where they all attend), and sanitize the whole space.

Karen still drops in once in a while, but Chuck and Nathaniel are our stalwart weekly volunteers. A huge thanks to all three of them!

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

Trina Spivack,
Accompanist

Tammy Sigl,
Interim Bell Choir Director

Lisa Torgerson,
Children's & Youth Ministry Director

Paul & Mary Camozzi,
Childcare Providers

Karen Gray,
Pastors' Secretary

Julie Ueltzen,
Church Secretary

Paul Shultz,
Financial Administrator

Ron Morris,
Maintenance Manager

Christian Bolen,
Custodian

Lisa Levering,
Wedding Coordinator

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

by phone:

CPC Office	916-486-9081
Stephen Ministry	916-486-0604
Food Closet	916-483-9232

To leave a voice mail message for a staff person when the office is closed, dial 916-486-9081. When the machine answers your call, dial the person's extension.

Keith DeVries	203	Paul Shultz	205
Ivan Herman	202	Karen Gray	201
Julie Ueltzen	200	Lisa Torgerson	204
Ron Morris	206		

via e-mail:

Keith DeVries	keith@carmichaelpres.org
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Julie Ueltzen	carmichaelpres@gmail.com
Karen Gray	karen@carmichaelpres.org
Paul Shultz	paul@carmichaelpres.org
Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Lisa Torgerson	lisa@carmichaelpres.org

Or link to email through our website: www.carmichaelpres.org

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TIME VALUE MAIL

Sundays @ CPC

In-Person & Live Stream Worship
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

A blend of traditional and contemporary music styles provide an opportunity to bring new life to the Word. Go to https://www.youtube.com/c/carmichaelpres or search for "carmichaelpres" on the YouTube app or your Smart TV. Plus, watch recordings of past worship services any time.

Sunday School

Is taking a break for summer. Classes resume on Sunday, September 11

Coffee Fellowship
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 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.