

A Little Bit of CPC Centennial History

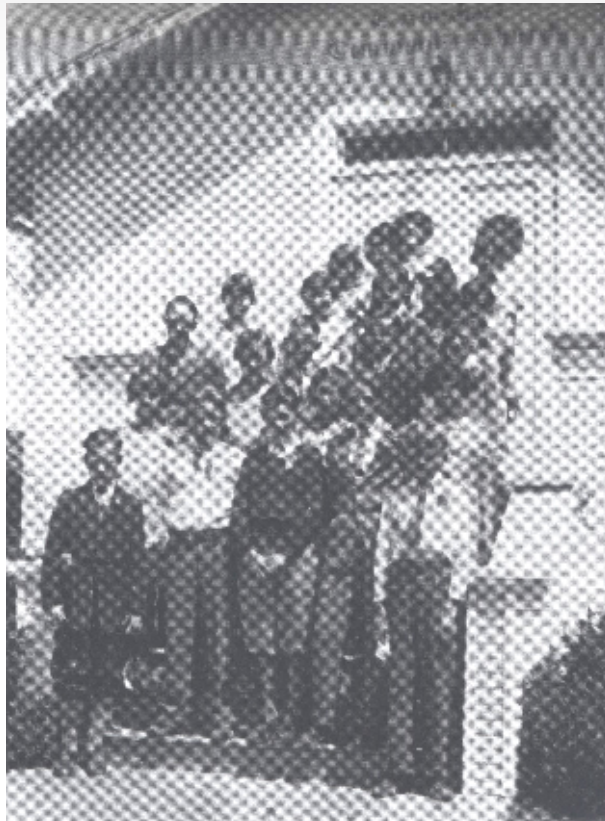
by Karen Orlando and Allison Cagley

And so, our story begins...

In 1918, a seed of faith was planted in a small farming community fifteen miles northeast of Sacramento, called Carmichael Colony. Three mothers, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Champlain, and Mrs. Ellithorpe found the need for their children to attend Sunday School, but the nearest church was five miles away on nearly impassable roads in Fair Oaks. Against heavy odds, these mothers organized a local Sunday School in the nearby school-house on Sutter Avenue, which had been built the year before (the plot of land is now where Carmichael Elementary School is located). For two and a half years, a young woman in the community, Marie Shumate, hitched up an old horse to her father's long bed wagon every Sunday morning and drove down the dusty roads in the community picking up the children for Sunday School. By the time the Sunday School discontinued in 1920, there were fifty to seventy-five children coming regularly, but no adults.

The Sunday School started by these devoted mothers ended after Marie was married and went elsewhere to live, but while that seed of faith seemed to go dormant, God was watering and waiting. It didn't take long for that seed's roots to grow. In

1923 a retired Methodist minister, the Rev. J.W. Babcock, spoke to the Carmichael Community Club reminding them of the need for an organized Sunday School



Carmichael Community Church Sunday School class c. 1925

for the children.

By October, that seed had become to blossom into an organized church with a ratified constitution. It was called, "The Carmichael Community Church." In November, the weekly pledges hit a high point of \$12.63. On December 2nd, 1923, with a board of administration and trustees organized, a congregational meeting was called extending the position of part-time minister to Rev. Babcock at a sal-

ary of \$25.00 per month. On December 2nd, 1923, the basic elements of church existence were at last in place. And with that our story began. The foundation for what would become Carmichael Presbyterian Church had commenced.

- excerpt from *Heritage of Faith: A 75 Year History of Carmichael Presbyterian Church*, by Margaret Herman, Marie Segur, and Faye White

Today, we call Carmichael Presbyterian Church our home. Its members and friends are our family. We can't imagine our life's journey without the relationships and experiences we've had together here at CPC and in each other's homes.

Our church's upcoming Centennial is the perfect opportunity to honor and recognize the people and programs who live out the Gospel in word and deed. The year-long celebration, starting in January, includes the publishing of a commemorative book for not only our current members and friends but for future generations, and CPC visitors.

The CPC Centennial Planning Committee, which includes **Karen Orlando**, **Susan Herman**, and **Allison Cagley**, encourage you to share your stories of life at CPC with them so we can share and celebrate throughout 2023. More information about our Centennial (Continued on page 9)

Inclusion Task Force Update

by Kathy Lewis



The Carmichael Presbyterian Church (CPC) Inclusion Task Force met for the first time on April 21, 2022. Monthly meetings have been scheduled through September.

As we shared in the April *Mission Bell*, our charge is to recommend to Session whether to affiliate with More Light Presbyterians, Covenant Network of Presbyterians, both, or neither in order to support inclusion of LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and others who don't fit any of these categories) people (and their families) at CPC; and to develop an implementation plan that includes all divisions; and a communication plan for the congregation.

The Task Force reviewed a summary of CPC's long history with LGBTQIA+ inclusion and learned that a pastor in our Presbytery, Merrill Follansbee and his wife Muriel (together with a friend) founded the Sacramento Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) forty years ago. Muriel was very active at CPC, and the group met in the CPC chapel in April 1982! A scholarship in their name is still provided annually to LGBTQIA+ students going on to higher education.

At their May meeting, the Task Force began the work of reviewing with **Pastor Keith**, Biblical references and supporting materials that both support and challenge inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community. In addition, the Task Force was scheduled to review three PC(USA) Overtures from 2018 on sexuality and same sex relationships. The Task Force also plans to attend *Becoming Inclusive and Welcoming: The Journey toward Affirming LGBTQIA+ People in the Church*, an all-day Presbytery-sponsored event on Saturday, June 4.

The following people are on the Task Force and represent all of our divisions except Nominating: **Rae-Nani Stokes** and **Kathy Lewis**, co-chairs from Membership and Outreach, **Paul Kinsella**, Mission Division representative, **Clint Dahlke**, Worship Division representative, **Laura Janik**, Administration Division representative, **Misty Dunn**, Fellowship & Nurture Division representative, **Tracey Dron**, Education Division representative, **Brook Silvernail**, congregation representative, and **Pastor Keith DeVries**, our advisor.

If you have any questions about the Task Force, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members. We would be more than happy to hear your thoughts! And if you want to learn more about More Light Presbyterians and Covenant Network of Presbyterians, visit www.mlp.org and www.covnetpres.org.

... Centennial History ...

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nial and our celebration activities will be here in your *Mission Bell* in the next several months and throughout the year.

Let's honor those dedicated women who started the Sunday School and the many women and men who we can thank for our church home and legacy.

MISSION BELL DEADLINE

10TH OF EACH
MONTH
FOR THE FOLLOWING
MONTH'S ISSUE



Submit articles to: Amy Lerseth,
Mission Bell Editor at
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