



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2022-January 2023

Volume LXII Number 11



FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

5:00 P.M.

Children help fill the Bethlehem village with nativity characters while we hear the Christmas story through carols, song, and Scripture. Plus, all children receive a special gift!

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

11:00 P.M.

Celebrate Christmas with the Lord's Supper, reading the Christmas Story, and special music from Hannah Ludwig.

Both services will be livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/carmichaelpres>

Celebrate God's gift to us in-person or online!

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A Bit of Centennial History

by Karen Orlando

As we venture through the 100-year history of Carmichael Presbyterian Church, how fortunate we are to have personal recollections from different times in our past. A few come from our own members.

Carolyn (McAllister) McGregor grew up at the rural area of Fair Oaks and Jacob Lane. Her grandfather came to Carmichael in 1910 and was a hops farmer along the American river, what we now call American River Drive. She recalls being able to stand on her back porch and see the orange school buses leaving Arden School (now Arden Middle School) as there were so few trees between them to block the view. The family attended Westminster Church in Sacramento, but in 1944 Carolyn's father joined the Navy and went off to war. Her mother Barbara, struggled with gas rationing. She soon decided she needed to look for a church local to the family. It was then she found Carmichael Community Church up at Fair Oaks Blvd and Marconi Ave. The community church, although with diverse denominational interests, was affiliated with the Presbyterian faith. It soon be-

came the home for the McAllister family.

The mid 1940's to the mid 50's saw prosperity returning to Carmichael and its community church. Under the leadership of Rev. James Comfort

Smith, with no air conditioning, he left his windows open. She was six years old when she asked her mother why Rev. Smith was hollering. Her mother explained that he was practicing his sermon. He was known for his resonating voice.

Carolyn's early childhood memories include a celebration of George Washington's birthday in the basement of the old church. Her job was to put little silver hatchets at each place setting. What she remembers was the terrible smell. Her mother, Barbara, saved one of the hatchets. When her father was finally home, they all realized the reason for the bad smell was the hatchets were painted with the lead paint used on airplanes.

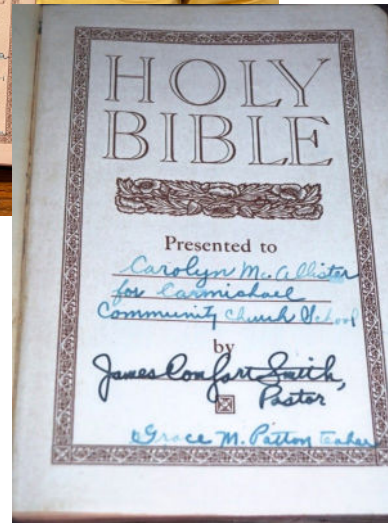
When she was in her early teens the youth group wanted to have a dance in the building that had once been the sanctuary. The youth went to session to seek approval for the desired

dance. Despite the fact the building was no longer the sanctuary, session said no to the dance request on the grounds that the sanctuary had once held sacred events such as weddings and a dance

(Continued on page 3)



Longtime Carmichael resident and CPC member **Carolyn McGregor** shows off the Bible presented to her as a child at CPC by Rev. James Comfort Smith.



Smith, there was an expansion of the church facilities. The chapel, parlor, center wing, and the sanctuary were built during that time. Carolyn remembers that when Rev. Smith came to the church, he rented a room above a neighbor's garage. In those days

... Centennial History ...

(Continued from page 2)

there would just be inappropriate.

In 1958, Gordon and Carolyn were married by Rev. Dr. Pyron McMillen. The wedding cake was set up in the Mahogany Room. She still has the linens given to her by Mrs. Hertzog, who was her mother's constant companion in the church kitchen.



Top: Gordon and Carolyn McGregor cut their wedding cake in the Mahogany Room at CPC in 1958, Bottom: Carolyn has kept her mother's church ensemble, including hat and gloves as a reminder of the fashion of the times.



wear a hat and gloves to church. Carolyn has her mother's ensemble beautifully stored in a Weinstock Lubin box. Among the other things she has saved is the childhood bible that was presented to her by Rev. Smith. As the years have gone by, Carolyn has worn many hats at CPC. From those early days as a Sunday School

teacher to helping faithfully at SOS, and now leading Presbyterian Women. The stories

In the mid 60's they joined a Mariners'hip. They also taught a rambunctious third grade Sunday School class along with friend Dorothy Morrison. Carolyn and Dorothy were the first two ladies to shockingly wear pantsuits to a Sunday service. Dorothy's was solid pink and Carolyn's a pink pattern. Rules of fashion being stricter those days, her mother was the last lady to

are plentiful. The memories they represent are bursting with happiness and love. Times of friendships and family, all centered around a faith filled journey decades in the making. Some might say, the journey continues.

California International Marathon Delays



The 39th Annual California International Marathon will be held Sunday, December 4,

causing some intersections near the church to be closed. The race starts at 7:00 a.m. near Folsom Dam and travels Oak Avenue, Fair Oaks Blvd, and J Street to the Capitol.

Intersections will be closed only while the race comes through, but be prepared, if necessary, to leave home early and avoid the racecourse on your way to church. For a complete road closure listing, go to <https://runsra.org/california-international-marathon/course-information/>

THE MISSION BELL (USP 593-640)

Published Monthly by
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
5645 Marconi Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Carmichael, CA 95608

Postmaster send address changes to:
Mission Bell
5645 Marconi Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608

Faith Comes Alive

2023 Stewardship Campaign

Carmichael Presbyterian Church (CPC) will celebrate its Centennial next year and as we look at the rich history of the church, we must also look to the future. Our 100-year journey has brought this congregation through dramatic events and changes in where we meet, how we worship, and the technology we use. Throughout this history, however, some things remained unchanged such as the kindness, compassion, and stewardship of our congregation. As we move into the future, your generous financial support makes it possible for CPC to continue to provide fellowship and ministries for our congregation and our community as a whole.

Stewardship is simply the act of being a steward. A steward is one who wisely manages the gifts that God has given. And, we are good stewards at CPC! A major milestone in the 2023 Stewardship Campaign was Dedication Sunday on November 20, 2022. On that day we pledged our financial resources to support the church and its ministries for the upcoming year. We did so with joy and gratitude for what God has given

each of us and the congregation as a whole. And God has given this congregation so much!



If you submitted your 2023 pledge already, thank you for your faithful giving to support all the ministries of CPC. If you have not had a chance to complete your pledge, it is never too late to do so. Please take a moment to complete your pledge online at www.carmichaelpres.org/giving/2023pledge/ or fill out a paper pledge card and mail it to the Church Office. Or, just give Paul Shultz a call at 916-486-9081, Extension 205, or e-mail him at paul@carmichaelpres.org and he will happily take your 2023 pledge. Remember that no

contribution is too small – we are all faithful stewards of CPC.

Thank you to the supportive members of the 2023 Stewardship Committee. Each member provided creative ideas and gave their time to make this year's campaign a success. **Laura Janik** provided exemplary overall leadership to the team as the Committee Chair. **Allison Cagley** and **Patty Peterson** did an amazing job of coming up with campaign themes, writing articles, and organizing speakers. **Avonlee Janik** contributed her excellent videography skills to the campaign and **Steve Parker** helped with technical

support. Of course, the team was counseled and guided by **Pastor Keith** and **Paul Shultz** provided financial advice. And, a big thank you to **Karen Gray** and **Julie Ueltzen** who make all things possible!

With your stewardship support for 2023, we can focus on our mission and ministry efforts. Again, thank you to each one of you for your faithful and generous support of our congregation as our Faith Comes Alive.

2022 Christmas Gift Ministry



For the 51st year, Carmichael Presbyterian Church and our Board of Deacons are helping local families celebrate Christmas. Each family will receive a \$100 grocery gift card to purchase their own Christmas dinner, children will receive a gift card for clothing, and a gift card for toys or a personal item of their choosing. Each adult will also receive a gift card for a personal item. This year, we are helping 35 families, including nearly 60 adults and 100 children.

How to Give:

- In the Gathering Place each Sunday in the Deacons' Gift Box (checks can be written to CPC)
- Send a payment to the church office & include a note saying "Gift Ministry"
- Donate online (<https://www.carmichaelpres.org/giving/donate/>). Be sure to include a note indicating the donation is for the Gift Ministry

Where does the money go?

All fundraising efforts go directly to the families selected by area elementary and pre-schools, Family Promise & our church office. The Deacons will purchase the gift cards selected by the participating families, and will deliver them on December 19, just in time for the holidays.

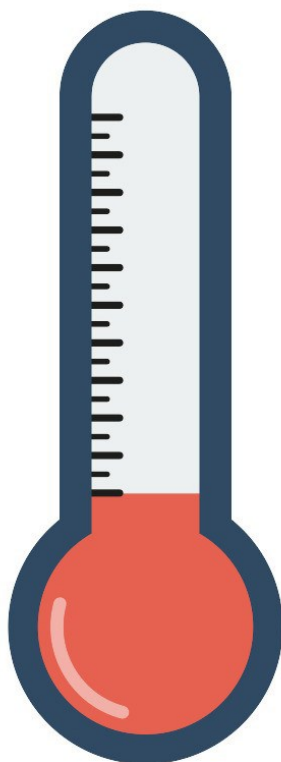
How you can help:

- Donate \$100 to provide a Christmas meal for a family
- Donate \$80 to sponsor one child
- Donate \$40 to sponsor one adult
- Donate \$420 to sponsor one family (2 adults, 3 children)
- Donate any amount! Everything helps!

Questions? Contact **Julie Ueltzen**, 916-486- 9081 or car-michaelpres@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity in continuing this wonderful CPC tradition!

GOAL: \$14,000



In Our Church Family



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

- † **Bonnie Paxton** and family on the loss of her mother, **Norma Kastl**, on October 30.
- † **Joy Jones** and family on the loss of her grandson, **Gabriel Wills**, on November 1.
- † **Lori Keeney** and family on the loss of her husband, **Steve Keeney**, on November 15.

MISSION BELL DEADLINES 10TH OF EACH MONTH

FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE

(Please Note: January 10, 2023 is the next deadline; there will not be a December newsletter)



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

COME
&
WORSHIP

3:00 PM
DECEMBER 18TH

Blue CHRISTMAS

Christmas isn't always a happy occasion for everyone. Some are reminded of family and friends no longer with us. Others, struggle with their limited ability to purchase gifts. Still others are just struggling to survive.

Let us join together in the Chapel for a time of reflection, forgiveness and peace. Your presence is the reason we are here.

916-486-9081

carmichaelpres@gmail.com

www.carmichaelpres.org

A Master Singers Christmas

For many years, several CPC families and friends have traditionally celebrated the Christmas season by attending one of the Sacramento Master Singers' superb and memorable concerts. This 50 voice choir has now returned to presenting safe in-



person live performances! And for the last nine seasons, CPC's Music Director **Keith Atwater** has sung bass/baritone with this impressive group. This year's holiday treats include Randall Stroope's "Hodie" with

brass and pipe organ, new arrangements of favorite carols including a jazzy "Silent Night," and a men's voices setting of "Ave Maria" made popular by Chanticleer. This December the choir will be joined by Saint Francis High School choir. You'll enjoy this special Christmas treat, either at a matinee or evening performance. Tickets can be purchased online.



Advent Gathering

Thursday, December 8

at 12:00 noon

featuring the

El Camino High School Choir

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a *FREE CONCERT*

of seasonal music and carols from the marvelous

El Camino High School Choir under the direction of David Vanderbout.

All are welcome! Bring your friends!

Presbyterian Women Bible Study *Celebrating Sabbath* Continues

by Terry Sakuda

Lesson 4: Sabbath and Surrender

Scripture: Exodus 16

During this lesson we will learn that the “manna” story, with its emphasis on only gathering as much as we need and not gathering on the Sabbath, is a call to trust God to provide for our needs. It is a call to surrender our unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff, and more success. It is a call to recognize when it is a time to say, “Enough.”



PW Bible Study Books

The Bible Study books are still available for \$12 at the CPC office. Please leave payment for **Terry Sakuda** (571-205-8055) in the PW mailbox.

PW Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Keith DeVries will lead the PW Bible Study Lesson 4 via Zoom, sharing insights with us on Thursday December 1 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

PW Circles

You are also invited to visit one of the PW Circles. The Mary Martha and Naomi Circles meet on the third Thursday of the month in

small groups for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, mission, and to nurture our faith as we share with one another. We also share reflections, fellowship, and prayers. Naomi Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor (Leader **Bonnie Hard**) and Mary Martha Circle at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place (Leader **Lisa Benadom**). Another opportunity to become involved with PW is the Dorcas Circle which is a World Service Sewing Circle. The Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the Howard Crowley Room from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information contact **Carolyn McGregor**.

Enjoy Wednesday Dinner & Help Out, Too!

Enjoy a meal and conversation together as we join in Wednesday evening food and fellowship in McMillen Hall starting at 5:30 p.m. On the menu: \$5 dinner, \$3 salad bar, \$1 per slice pizza, \$20 max per family.

With Wednesday evening dinners in full swing, we need volunteers to help with cashiering, cleaning up, and cooking. Cooks can choose the menu and are reimbursed for food expenses. You can prepare all or part of the meal, or join with some friends to prepare dinner together.

If you are able and willing to help on a rotating or regular basis, or even just for one week, please contact **Pastor Ivan Herman** at 916-486-9081 or

ivan@carmichaelpres.org

and he'll be glad to get you plugged in.



MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Session 1:

Sunday, December 4
(1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Session 2:

Saturday, December 10
(9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)
(Includes lunch)

In this two-session class you'll learn from Pastor Keith what it means to be Presbyterian, how CPC operates, and how you can connect to the life and ministry of CPC in a way that is meaningful to you.

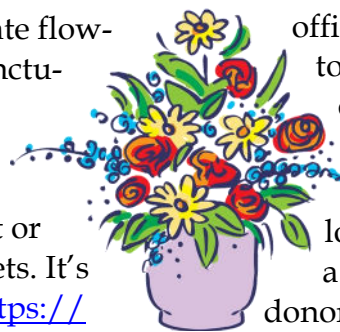
Childcare will be provided upon request.

To register or for more information, contact **Rae-Nani Stokes** (raenani@hotmail.com) or call the church office (916-486-9081)

2023 Sanctuary Flowers

You can donate flowers to adorn our Sanctuary during worship on Sundays in

2023! The cost is \$35 for one bouquet or \$70 for both bouquets. It's easy to do: Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4ba4ae29a5fe3-sanctuary1> to choose an open date at least one week in advance. Fill in the information and submit your payment to CPC with "flowers" in the memo line. Or, call the church



office and we'll be glad to help you sign up over the phone.

This is a meaningful way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. All donors and those you recognize are listed in that Sunday's Parish Notes.

You may keep the flowers after worship or have our Deacons deliver them to someone in need of a bit of cheer.

Opportunity Knocks

by Sharon MacLean, Engagement Coordinator

Hello, CPC family! As 2022 winds down and 2023 is just around the corner, there are many opportunities to be involved in either serving or attending fun events. Be on the lookout in the weekly *Parish Notes*, the church Facebook page or the *Mission Bell* for details .

Highlights and Needs:

Below are several "short term" opportunities to be involved and serve.

Worship - Advent Candle

Lighters - The Worship Division is

looking for Advent Candle Lighters to light weekly candles in worship on the following



during Advent and Christmas Eve worship and readers for the Blue Christmas Service on December 18 at 3:00 p.m. Candle lighters and readers will be given full instructions and can be families, couples, or individuals. For more information or to sign up, contact **Kathy Lewin** at kslew-in@sbcglobal.net.

Food Closet Helpers and

Food Donations - The Food Closet has several volunteer spots open in the upcoming weeks. Plus the food supply is

running low, so donations are welcome. To sign up to work a shift, go to: <https://signup.com/go/aZUPgfc>. For questions, please contact **Tiffany Goeman** (tmgoeman@yahoo.com).

Specific food items needed are: pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna/ chicken, beans, milk, eggs, empty egg cartons, and paper grocery bags. Items may be brought to the Food Closet or to the Church Office.



Centennial Committee

Helpers - The Centennial Committee is looking for several volunteers to help with a variety of easy jobs for various Centennial events in 2023. Jobs could include providing information at a table after church, selling tickets, set-up/clean-up, decorations, etc. For more details, contact **Karen Orlando** (k.orlando@comcast.net)

McMillen Kitchen Subcommittee

- The committee needs oversight of the kitchen, regular equipment checks, cleanliness inspections, a source of information on how equipment operates and provides feedback to the Maintenance Manager about things broken or not working correctly.



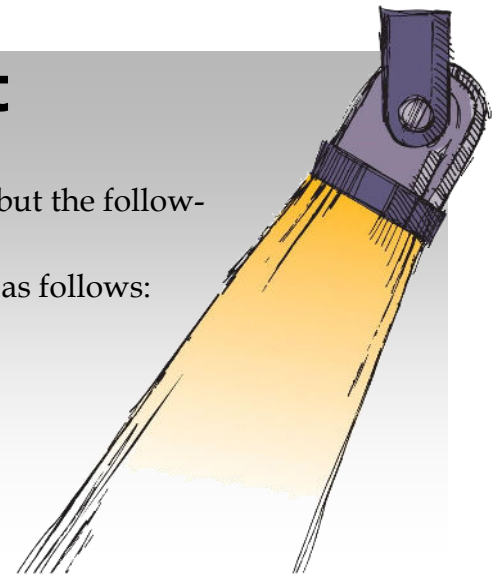
As well, there are always many ongoing opportunities for involvement in the life of the church. Look for the information table in the Gathering Place, generally on the second Sunday of the month with many opportunities and/or read the weekly *Parish Notes* or visit the Friends of Carmichael Presbyterian Church Facebook page.

If you are and interested in being involved or helping with any of these ministries, please feel free to reach out to the contact person for the area in which you want to help, or contact **Sharon MacLean** at bruce.sharonmac@gmail.com. I'm happy to help you find a place to get involved and connect you with of the leaders of specific ministries.



Session Spotlight

by Linda Hatch, Clerk of Session



There were very few action items at the October Session meeting, but the following were carried:

1) Session received the September financial report with highlights as follows:

General Fund Report

Income September 2022	\$58,502.69
Income YTD	650,392.20
Expense September 2022	68,149.89
Expense YTD	594,235.38

21st Century Report

Income September 2022	\$5,501.52
Income YTD	10,322.29

Parking Lot Fund balance	228,696.99
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2) **Alice Hill** was deleted from the CPC membership roll, following her passing on October 1, 2022.

News from Companionship

Following a delicious taco salad dinner prepared by **Howard and Sally Willey** and cakes by **Sharlene St. Clair** and **Priscilla Mauerman, Marti Wallace** read the story of a man named Arlo who did not take advantage of a Bible gifted to him and missed out by never reading it ... in more ways than one. There had been a \$20 bill at the end of each Chapter. Or was it the beginning?

Then the ship started our planning meeting for 2023. The new slate of officers was unanimously elected as follows:
Skippers - **Barbara and Tim Farley**



First Mates - **Terry Barto and Priscilla Mauerman**

Log Keeper - **Chris Beeby**

Pursers - **Elayne and Randy Anderson**

Chaplains - **Carol and Harry Jones**

Dave Studer suggested that we could change our bylaws to remove Lookouts and Historians as officers. After some discussion, the Lookout position idea was tabled for a future meeting. **Barbara Farley** offered to make a fancy Shutterfly photo book upon her retirement from skippering next year (thus, acting as Historian).

Following an explanation of the new format for the church Christmas baskets, the motion was made and seconded to give \$300 from our ample ship treasury to buy food for three families. The motion passed. Individuals can gift to the families by leaving a donation to the office, mailing to CPC, or donating on Sunday. The deacons will be using these donations to buy all the necessary gift cards. Their goal is \$14,000.

Lastly, we discussed our calendar for 2023. We're looking forward to another year of fun and educational events!

Thank you, **Priscilla**, for taking notes and writing this article.

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

Jenny DeVries,
Bell Choir Director

Lisa Torgerson,
Children's 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

Gabe Bisho, Pianist

Will Condrey, Drummer

Matthew Major, Bassist

Michael Schwab, Guitarist

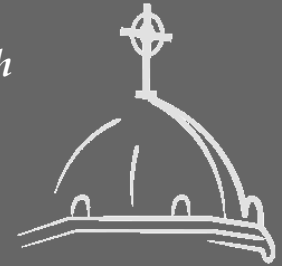
Steve Parker, Bruce MacLean,

Michael Gray, Noor Bitar,
Josh Keaney, Avonlee Janik,
and **Dave 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



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	Keith Atwater	208

via e-mail:

Keith DeVries	keith@carmichaelpres.org
Ivan Herman	ivan@carmichaelpres.org
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
Keith Atwater	music@carmichaelpres.org

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

TIME VALUE MAIL

Sundays @ CPC

In-Person & Live Stream Worship

10:00 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

10:15 a.m.

All children are welcome and encouraged to attend worship. Kids age 4-5th grade are dismissed to their class following the pastor's Time for Young People.



Coffee Fellowship Waterfall Singers

Middle & High 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. The group sings during worship about once a month.

Youth in 6th through 12th grade are encouraged to come to the Upper Rooms (youth rooms) for a brief lesson followed by time to hang out with friends.

