



2024 Annual Report

Carmichael Presbyterian Church
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2024 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 2024 for eleven regular meetings and three special meetings. Session Highlights were occasionally published in the church newsletter, *The Mission Bell*.

A quorum of Ruling Elders attended the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. CPC Pastors and up to four Ruling Elders represented the Congregation at four Stated Meetings of the North Central California Presbytery in person or via Zoom.

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Ruling, and Deacons Elders who served on other governing bodies of the church in 2024 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

2024 Members of Session

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Maria Brow Laura Janik Lynette Ledesma* Bill Pace Anne Parker Teryl Summers* Bob Curtis	Allison Cagley David Mathews Lara Moborez ElizaBeth Phillips Kathy Phillips	Rebecca Cameron Rebecca Parker Terry Sakuda Julie Ueltzen Jim Hill*	Ernie Chard Bob Curtis Anita Lawson

*Resigned

2024 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

2024 Divisions of Session (Beginning June 1, 2024)

Church Administration

Allison Cagley, Chair
Jim Hill

Education

Rebecca Cameron, Chair
Ernie Chard

Fellowship & Nurture

Lara Moborez, Chair

Mission

Bob Curtis, Chair
David Mathews
Rebecca Parker

Worship

Kathy Phillips, Chair
Terry Sakuda

Membership & Outreach

Julie Ueltzen, Chair
Anita Lawson

Nominating Committee

ElizaBeth Phillips, Moderator

2024 Board of Deacons

Officers

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

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Thamsyne Brown*	Debbie Cameron	Marsha Cook	Jan Olson
Marsha Cook	Charlotte Frink*	Gannon Grace	Glenda Perrou
Misty Dunn	Dick Frink*	Patty Kepner	Pattie Shaw
Bette Johnson	Carol Honnold	Jami McCray	Judi Stewart
Janet Olson	Lillian Janik	Leon Wartinger	
Deb Sweetman	Bette Johnson	Sharlene St. Clair	
Mary Thomas	Whitney MacLean	Christina Tomlinson*	
John Wallace	Priscilla Mauerman		
	Erin Pace		
	Dani Romais		
	Deb Sweetman		
	Caron Treon		

* Resigned

2024 Journey to the Church Triumphant

With sadness of heart we have said goodbye 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:

Ele Crispell, January 2

Bob Beckert, January 4

Carol Conoley, February 10

Susan "Sues" Williamson, February 13

Helene Crowley, May 30

Barbara Krefting, June 5

Philip Mishler, June 8

Jane Swenson, June 8

Howard Ross Jr., August 7

Betty Moore, November 11

Birgitta Ellis, December 16

Joan Bristow, December 19

V. Elaine Vargo, Unknown

2024 Statistical Report

Mary MacDonald, Clerk

Membership Roll

Active Members December 31, 2023 413

Gains

Total Gains 18

Losses

Certificate of Transfer 4

Death 13

Other 53

Total Losses -70

Active Members, December 31, 2024 361

Female Members 238

Male Members 121

Non-Binary/Genderqueer 2

Child Baptism 0

Adult Baptism 0

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under 5

Elementary School (K-5th) 24

Middle School (6th - 8th) 17

High School (9th – 12th) 43

Other Statistics

Average Sunday Worship Service Attendance 273 which includes in-person and live-stream.

Weddings Officiated by our Pastors: 2

Graveside and Memorial Services

Members: 7

Non-Members: 8

Communion Services 15

Communion Services to Homebound 0

2024 Staff Reports

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Caring for those in our midst...

2024 ended with the death of Jenny's dad, Dean Shaver, on November 5. He lived with us for the last four years of his life. He was a member of the "Greatest Generation," a WWII Vet, who lived a full and long life before entering the Church Triumphant at the age of 98. He had hoped to reach that centennial mark, but didn't quite get there. His memorial service was held on January 26, 2025, in the sanctuary of CPC.

In our caregiving journey these past four years, we have encountered so many people like us and like you, those among us who have cared for a parent, a child, a family member. We have encountered people who have put their life on hold for a season to care for someone they love. To love as a caregiver is to change your priorities and transform your routine for the good of another. Their needs become your top priority 24/7, as you learn to walk with them, to assist them, to feed them, to take care of their personal hygiene needs, and to make them as comfortable as possible, one step at a time.

We have discovered on this journey that none of us is immune to the joys and the struggles and the sorrows of life. We are reminded of what we have in common with all of you, our siblings in Christ, as we seek to be faithful on this ever-changing and evolving journey. And while on this journey, we hope that we have learned a thing or two, and trust that when those experiences are shared, they might benefit others.

We thank you, individually and corporately, for taking care of us along the way with food and cookies and love and laughter. **We thank you** for your words of kindness and encouragement as you remind us of how Christ calls us to care for one another, as you, the members and friends of CPC, model caregiving opportunities daily. **Thank you** to those who care for others through Stephen Ministry. **Thank you** to those who serve as Deacons and care for those who are housebound due to illness or age. **Thank you** to those who care for the unhoused in so many ways. **Thank you** for your prayers of caring as you knit/crochet prayer shawls into being for those who are hurting among us. **Thank you** for your daily expressions of caring for one another, including Jenny's dad. And Dad, **thank you** for making our home your home too. We are grateful for the opportunity to care for you these past four years as you enriched our life—
Thanks, Dad!

With love and appreciation and blessings for the members and friend of CPC on this journey we share together,

Pastor Keith and Jenny

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.”

James 1:22-25 (NRSVUE)

When my kids were young they attended Mission Avenue Open Elementary School. The school had a motto that is sometimes attributed to Confucius or Xunzi: “I hear and I forget, I see and I know, I do and I understand.” It sounds a lot to me like it could have been included in the Epistle of James.

I recently referenced the work of Barbara Brown Taylor who said in her book, *The Preaching Life*, that “every sermon is God’s creation as well as the creation of the preacher and the congregation.” We can hear the word proclaimed, we can even preach sermons, but until we *do the word*, as James says, we are “merely hearers...who immediately forget.”

Within these pages you’ll read a sermon, and it is a story of how this congregation in Carmichael not only believes the word, but does the word. While the plot may seem piecemeal as it winds its way from section to section and page to page, I hope that you will see a colorful story that portrays the wonderful ways God has worked through Carmichael Presbyterian Church in 2024. As you read through this annual report, may it be a source of encouragement and challenge to you, and may the story you see told here give witness to God’s faithfulness and to our grateful response to God’s grace.

Storytelling does not stop with the teller. Jesus was a storyteller, and he seems to have been particularly good at coaxing his listeners into participating in the stories. When he taught in parables, Jesus opened his teachings to interpretation and welcomed his listeners to respond to what he had to say by incorporating the lessons learned into their lives of faith.

As you read through these pages may you see and know how God is moving in Carmichael, but also be mindful of how God’s Spirit may be calling you to be a doer of the word, so that you will be blessed in the doing.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

2024 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 (through August 2024)

Rikki Pratt, Mission Bells Director (as of September 2024)

Michael Lombardo, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

Mary Camozzi, Childcare Provider

Paul Camozzi, Childcare Provider

Karen Gray, Executive Assistant

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

Merlyn Van Regenmorter, Contemporary Worship Bassist

Noor Bitar, Michael Gray, Avonlee Janik, Bruce MacLean, Steve Parker, Kiyo Romais (as of August 2024), and

David Stoffel, Audio/Visual Technicians

Megan Dye, Food Closet Operations Manager (through September 2024)

Monique Schubert, Food Closet Operations Manager (as of October 2024)

After a very busy centennial year, your office staff settled into a more typical routine in 2024. We continued to answer phone calls, greet visitors, provide resources, share information, produce bulletins, newsletters, programs, and flyers, post on social media and the CPC website, and generally support all who work to carry out CPC's mission statement. As we continue seeking how best to serve CPC members and our community, we made a few changes:

- With a plethora of tablecloths in a variety of sizes and colors, plus donated decorations, it was becoming difficult to keep track of what we had and where it was. We converted the old preschool resource room into table linens and decorations storage, affectionately known as the "Linen Room." Thanks to the amazing efforts of Kathy Lewin, tablecloths are checked, laundered, and organized on a regular basis. There are also table decorations for nearly any occasion available for CPC groups to use.
- In an effort to better meet the needs of our community while minimizing the impact on staff, we revamped the protocol for providing assistance from the Deacons' Fund. We increased the number of gas cards we distribute each week, limited utility assistance to SMUD and PG&E, stopped providing assistance with rent, and gave the office staff a bit more flexibility in handling assistance requests.
- Karen Gray's job title changed. Her title is now Executive Assistant, though her job description remains essentially the same.

We are continually grateful for the volunteers who dedicate their time to helping our office staff:

Offering Counters: Bob Bergsten, Bill Dunn, Tim Farley, Carol Jones, Terry Sakuda and Len Tozier

Mission Bell Newsletter Staff: David Gray and 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 kitchens 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 2024 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
- Attended Carmichael Improvement District security meetings for updated information
- Cut up and removed dead & down trees on property
- Completed plumbing repairs when possible
- Maintained fence repairs
- Cleaned rooftops when needed
- Coordinated the replacement of the 40+ year old roof over the west wing classrooms

2024 Church Administration Division

Allison Cagley, 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 in collaboration with the other Divisions
- Assuring that all donations are used for the purpose for which they are contributed.
- Providing the administration of the church's programs, including the employment of staff and annual performance reviews
- Providing for the management of the church property
- Providing management of contracts related to rental of the property and loans
- The following standing committees carry out much of the work outlined above:
 - Buildings and Grounds
 - Personnel
 - Stewardship
 - Gifts and Bequests

The members of the Administration Division as of December 2024

- Allison Cagley, Chair (class of 2025)
- Jim Hill, Finance (class of 2025)
- Tim Farley, Chair, Buildings and Grounds

Pastor Keith provides staff support to the Administration Division and each of its standing committees. The Financial Administrator, Paul Shultz, provides staff support including monthly financial reports and other reports as needed.

Highlights of the Actions and Activities of 2024:

- The 2025 CPC annual budget will be approved by the Session on January 28, 2025. Thanks go to the Divisions and their work in providing their budgets. Additional thanks to Jim Hill and Bill Pace for their thorough work on the budget.
- With Session and Congregational approval, the equity loan agreement with Pastor Ivan Herman was established.
- With Session and Congregational approval, the solar project loans were obtained.
- With Session approval, the rental agreement was renewed with the North Central California Presbytery for October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025.
- With Session approval, a three-year agreement was reached with Carmichael HART for use of the Robertson House and their Transitional Housing Program for men.
- With Session approval, approved contracts with Premo Solar for the installation of the parking lot solar project.
- Annual reviews of fiscal years 2019 and 2020 were completed by Bill Dunn and received by Administration Division.
- With Session approval, a contract with Moore Development Strategies was established. Dawn Moore will be serving as capitol campaign consultant for the solar and parking lot project in 2025.
- The Stewardship Campaign team, comprised of Allison Cagley, Laura Janik, Patty Kepner, Tim Farley and Lynette Ledesma, successfully completed the annual campaign with the theme of "Imagining God's Future in our Community."

- The Personnel Committee completed a busy year including the hiring of an organist and bell choir director.

Buildings & Grounds

Tim Farley, Chair

In 2024, Buildings & Grounds continued to use the County Sheriff's work crew one day each month. On the fourth Saturday of each month, the supervised crew of 15-20 individuals worked on our list of cleaning, maintenance, groundskeeping, and Food Closet tasks.

In 2024 we brought back a pre-pandemic activity – the Congregational Spring Workday. On the fourth Saturday in March, we assembled a group of staff and church members to work on a plethora of tasks.

During the year there were many things done by staff alone or with others that contributed to the repair or maintenance of equipment and grounds. Some examples are replacing the 2nd floor deck outside of the student classrooms, replacing the west wing roof, installing a new freezer in the kitchen, and replacing 10 round tables in McMillen Hall.

We began an inventory of aging natural gas air and water heaters to see if we can replace them by taking advantage of rebates under SMUD's electrification program.

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

Parking Lot Task Force (PLTF)

Tim Farley, Chair

The PLTF had its first meeting in June 2021. At that time, the 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," 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 efficient lighting.

The design now includes double rows of angled parking divided lengthwise by bioswale areas containing low vegetation and trees; and a ramp for access for those using canes, walkers, or wheelchairs or anyone else with mobility issues. The new ramp is planned to be situated near the existing stairs. New LED lights will illuminate the area, and they are designed specifically for parking lots.

In 2024 we contracted with PREMO Solar, a solar contractor, to design and install a solar electric generating facility in the new parking lot. This facility will provide about half of CPC's electricity needs each year and it is expected to pay for itself in about 14 years using current SMUD rates.

In December 2024 the County Planning Department approved the solar project and a building permit is expected to be approved by the end of February. Construction could begin as soon as March or April 2025.

In 2023 we contracted with CWE, a general contractor, to work out specific details of the parking lot design. In late 2024, CWE finalized the construction drawings and submitted them for County approval. The first comments from the County were received in November and their comments are being addressed. CWE expects to make their second submittal in January 2025. It is usual for there to be a third iteration with the County on these kinds of plans.

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

There are still details and steps to be completed – including getting final County approval, creating a request for proposals, identifying and selecting contractors, and solidifying funding costs. We hope to have a new parking lot in place before the end of summer.

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, Lynette Ledesma, and Patty Kepner.

In 2024, memorial gifts were received in memory 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 \$11,199 in total were designated for CPC Food Closet, Parking Lot, Technology, Choir, Library, Vacation Bible School, and Arts Committee.

Gifts Financial Report for 2024

Account	Receipts	Expenses	Balance (12/31/24)
Capital Improvements (Benson)	5,778	0	11,466
Special Speakers/Programs	2,298	0	21,501
Khoobyar, designated for Adult Education	2,385	4,512	27,160
Landscape Fund	189	0	3,828
Hiller Music Bequest Fund	0	0	0
Undesignated bequests	165,000	164,828	165,000
Undesignated memorial gifts	2,241	0	43,474
Undesignated gifts	0	0	21,238
CPC Reserve Fund	38,651	0	349,866

Recommendations for expenditures during 2024 were as follows:

- Funds of \$4,512 were approved to pay expenses and stipends from the Khoobyar Fund for the Covenant Network education program, “Building a Real Welcome for All God’s People” in August.
- Funds of \$18,220 were used from the Undesignated Funds to pay preliminary expenses for the improvement of the parking lot as approved by the Parking Lot Task Force.
- Funds of \$146,608 were transferred from the Undesignated Bequests Fund to the Parking Lot Savings Account for future parking lot expenses.

CPC also received a legacy gift in December of 2024 in the amount of \$165,000.

The Adobe Funds Legacy program was introduced in 2023 and includes several different ways you can leave a gift as a legacy for CPC. The GBAC would appreciate knowing of any future planned legacy gifts that include CPC as a beneficiary (amounts of the gift are not necessary). If you have any questions concerning the Adobe Funds or legacy gifts, please contact any member of the GBAC as listed in the first paragraph.

Personnel Committee

Dave Studer, Chair

We continued 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. 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.

Columbarium Board

Tony Perrou, Chair

Board members: Linda and Dan Franke

As of 12/31/23, the columbarium dedicated account balance was \$68,609.47. As of 12/31/24, the balance is \$73,334. In 2024, three niche permit applications were received.

The columbarium consists of 192 niches. At the close of 2023, the columbarium had 96 niches available with 96 niches permitted. At the close of 2024, the columbarium had 93 niches available, and 99 niches permitted. Of the 99 permitted niches, a total of forty-seven inurnment services have been performed.

In 2024 there were three inurnment services performed in honor of Bob Beckert (January 27), Susan “Sues” Williamson (April 6), and Philip Mishler (June 25).

The columbarium board met on January 27th and April 6th for inurnment services. No board meetings

occurred in 2024, however, the chair met with Paul Shultz, CPC Financial Administrator on occasion in 2024 to discuss supply purchases, such as niches, urns, and ordering of name plates.

2024 Christian Education

Rebecca Cameron, Chair

Michael Lombardo, Staff

Mary MacDonald, Elder

Ernie Chard, Elder

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.

ONGOING MINISTRIES:

Infant and Childcare: Mary and Paul Camozzi have been a cornerstone in our Children's Ministry. Their stability has allowed our students to see the same welcoming faces each and every week of their lives. Not only that, they show kids from a young age what the love of God looks like. We are blessed to have their help, not just on Sunday mornings, but also for various meetings and gatherings.

Godly Play: Mary MacDonald and Paul Shultz, like their downstairs counterparts, have been absolutely essential to the foundation of our CPC Children's Ministries. Their embodiment of God's love and welcoming nature for our children is a great example for them to follow.

Upper Elementary: In the fall of 2024, a new children's Sunday morning class started. It is for our students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade who were too old for Godly play and too young for youth group. This class follows the "Whirl" curriculum and is led by Michael Lombardo.

Youth Bible Study: After several iterations, the Youth Bible Study was refocused in the fall of 2024 and has been studying the Minor Prophets for the past five months. The main goal was to demonstrate to the students that we can learn lessons from thousands of years ago, written for a different audience. On multiple occasions, students were able to recognize similar struggles faced by the ancient Israelites that we also encounter in modern times.

Youth Group: 2024 was a year for growth in our youth group, not only numerically but also, more importantly, in our relationship with God, our understanding of the Church, and our relationships with one another.

Stepping Stones: We continue to celebrate the milestones our students reach in their theological journeys. We offered Stepping Stones curriculum this year across five of the six milestones. For the first time since COVID, we offered an Entry into Sunday School Stepping Stones class for adult caregivers. Six of our high school graduates received quilts at our Graduation Stepping Stones celebration in May (gratitude to Mary MacDonald for creating the beautiful quilts!). We are grateful to ElizaBeth Phillips, Lynn Shultz, and Mary MacDonald for their hard work and commitment to the Stepping Stones program. We will always treasure their dedication to serving CPC students.

Adult Education: Our adult education focus in spring was a partnership with the Transgender Inclusion Task Force, offering a Lenten Study on *transformations: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, which was well-attended and meaningful. Over the summer, Keith Atwater offered three Sunday adult enrichment opportunities: a Hymn Sing, a study of the Dalai Lama, and a discussion of comparative Christian traditions. In addition, the Transgender Inclusion Task Force offered a workshop, *Building a Real Welcome for All God's People: LGBTQIA+ People and the Church*, in partnership with the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in August. Rev. Brian Ellison of CovNet preached and offered an adult education class after church in conjunction with this event.

Library: The Education Division celebrates the work of CPC Librarian Doris Becker in stewarding and developing our collection of books that nourish our community's growth in Christian faith and action.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Planting Seeds of Faith Auction: The 20th PSOF auction was held in April. We are lucky enough to have a congregation that generously gives to and for our students. Thanks to everyone for once again helping to raise over \$20,000 for the children and youth of CPC through donations, purchases, organizing, and volunteering for this wonderful event. Shout out to Julie Ueltzen for her invaluable leadership!

Youth Sunday: The children and youth of CPC led worship on Sunday, May 19th, and they were phenomenal! We had students sharing personal reflections and delivering messages. Younger students read scripture, and they were excited to participate. We will continue to expand and invite our children and youth to lead in 2025!

Family Camp: A few families and Michael gathered at Sly Park Jenkinson Lake from June 7-9 for "Family Camp." The weekend was full of fun and laughter, providing a wonderful opportunity for Michael to bond with more families from CPC.

Upper Room Open Hours: During the summer, Michael opened all the Youth Rooms for a few hours a week. These open hours offered a space for students to relax and be themselves. Additionally, because it was summer, it provided another option for students to escape the heat, enjoy the air conditioning, and take a break from their families (for both students and parents).

Vacation Bible School: The theme for VBS 2024 was "SCUBA: Diving into a Friendship with God." Seventeen children learned foundational truths about God and how to grow closer to God with the help of Mary MacDonald, Michael Lombardo, Maya Calderon, Donovan Parker, Nathaniel Parker, Lizzy Moborez, and Madison Abungin. VBS took place from 9 AM to noon during the week of July 8 to 12.

Harvest Festival: The annual Harvest Festival was a success once again this year! We had games for everyone, and we received a record number of baked goods donated for the cake walk (thank you!). With the abundance of treats, we could run the cakewalk for nearly the entire duration, and people loved it. We concluded the festivities with our Trunk-or-Treat, and the community's creativity never ceases to amaze! With no rain this year, we had a fantastic turnout from both our church and the local community. Huge thank you to Julie Ueltzen for helping plan!

Photo Event: The Art Committee and the youth of CPC partnered to create art for the DeVries Gathering Place. The youth loved seeing their original pieces and photos of them being displayed. Thank you to the Art Committee for setting that up!

Advent Event: The brainchild of Mary MacDonald, we hosted a Community Advent Event this past December. The goal was to have a “Harvest Festival” but for Advent, an event where our church community and the local community can gather and celebrate together. The cost was free, and we provided crafts, cookie decorating, a photo booth, light snacks, and the most successful aspect...Christmas Karaoke. Moving forward, we will adjust the time and date to make the event more available for all families.

Monthly Events:

Every month we had a goal to have an event for our children and youth. Here’s what we did in 2024:

- January:
 - Children’s Game Night: We had three children join Michael Lombrano and Anne Parker for a night of playing games and running around.
 - Youth Minigolf: Eleven students joined Michael at Scandia Fun Center for minigolf. Looking back on this event, it was a catalyst for many of the relationships that Michael grew with the older students.
- February:
 - Family Skate Time: Michael and four families with their students joined us for a few hours of skating. Thankfully, there were no major injuries, just a couple of bruised bottoms.
- March:
 - Trampoline Park: Eight of our youth and children joined us at Sky Zone. Again, thankful for no injuries!
 - Ridiculousness: Westminster Presbyterian hosted a late-night event called Ridiculousness. The night was full of fun games, including a large group game to end the night. Over 50 students attended, and it was the start of Michael’s collaboration with other local youth groups.
- April:
 - 30-Hour Famine: By collaborating with two other churches (Westminster and Grace Presbyterian) and World Vision, we raised over \$1000 to provide food for hundreds of children around the globe. Twenty youths traveled to Westminster Woods together and participated in games to better understand what it feels like to lack access to food or essential supplies for building shelter.
 - Painting Seeds of Faith: Mary MacDonald wanted to find a way for our children to get involved with the Planting Seeds of Faith. She had the idea to have children and youth paint original works, group them together, and sell them. It was a success, and the kids loved it. Pastor Keith and his wife bought the piece and donated it to the Children’s ministry.
 - Youth Leading SOS: Six youth students helped serve dinner to our homeless community by cooking, serving, and cleaning up.
- May:
 - Family Kickball: Four families played kickball and more spent an afternoon enjoying each other’s company.
- June/July:
 - We had a few special events during the summer months, including Vacation Bible School and summer camp.
- August:
 - Rock Climbing: Michael, along with eight students, went rock climbing at Granite Arch (that opens at 11 am and not 10 am, unlike what Michael thought. The youth and he certainly did not wait in the parking lot for an hour until they opened...)
 - Chalk It Out: The Children’s Ministry sponsored chalk for the congregation to use on the sidewalk behind the church. The congregation created some beautiful artwork!

- Backpack Drive: During a Wednesday night group, the youth collaborated with Carmichael HART to put together 20 kits for students in our community who needed school supplies.
- September:
 - Unicorn Battle: The name makes more sense after seeing the aftermath of Unicorn Battle. Youth were split into four teams and competed in several relay races until the final battle. An all-out color war between the teams with one goal...cover the other teams in your color.
- October:
 - Harvest Festival and Trunk-or-Treat
- November:
 - Scavenger Games
- December:
 - Community Advent Event
 - Christmas Pageant: the first in 5 years!

Library

Doris Beckert, Librarian

The project to enter our approximately 3,600 books into the Library Things database is now complete. The laptop computer that Skipjacks purchased for the library was used to enter the existing books and all new additions. The next step of adding the link to the CPC website has not yet been accomplished.

Glenda Perrou has been assisting with the bulletin boards and seasonal decorations.

New additions to the collection, including both purchases and donations total 32.

Skipjacks scheduled one of their meetings in the library, where the librarian gave an overview of the collection. This informational talk was well received, and other groups are encouraged to reserve a date for something similar.

2024 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.

Meets: 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 Morning Fellowship (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: Elder Lara Moborez, Kathy Lewin, Ivan Herman.

Wednesday Dinner (formerly Wednesday Works) continued during 2024 with **Lynette Ledesma** and helpers preparing and serving meals. F&N worked to get Mariner groups and individuals to help with the many tasks of Wednesday Dinner.

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

Dinners for 6, 7, or 8 re-started after several years' hiatus, with two groups of 8 meeting for fellowship and a meal for several months.

All Church Picnic occurred on May 5, 2024, after a year-long hiatus. Primary attendees were the youth and their families, and an all-church kickball game was played, organized by **Michael Lombrano**.

An all-church camping trip to Sly Park was planned by **Joshua Keaney** for June 7-9. Several families joined, with some camping overnight and others joining just for the day.

The **Art Committee** held multiple shows and receptions over the year, organized by **Lori Keeney** and **Kathy Daigle**.

Caregiver Support Ministry has been reactivated by **Kathy Lewin**, with a focus on supporting caregivers in the congregation who need a break from continual care of a loved one and connecting them with community resources. Kathy recently connected with Maggie Posadas, who runs an in-home care service, and together they are planning a caregivers relief workshop on Jan 25, 2025.

There are currently 8 **Marinerships** – 2 are perhaps inactive due to aging members. This ministry is being taken over in 2025 by Kathy Lewin who will be in touch with all the skippers to verify they are still active and oversee the provision of 6 dozen cookies to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday.

A new marinership, Mothership, was started by **Lynette Ledesma** and **Rae-Nani Stokes**, with the first meeting taking place in November 2024. Group activities are primarily focused on parents who attend church on their own with children of all ages.

Women's Retreat was held in September 13-15 at Zephyr Point, organized by **Sharon MacLean, Debbie Berke, Sharlene Millering**, and others. There were about 40 women attending—a full house! The speaker was Pastor Carrie Lane.

Family Advent Night happened on December 7, 2024, as a collaboration between **Mary MacDonald** and **Michael Lombrano**. There were crafts, Christmas Karaoke, cookie decorating, and hot cocoa.

Health Ministry held no events in 2024 but will restart in 2025 with the addition of new church member **Mary Miller**.

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 directory to be determined.

Art Committee

Submitted by Lori Keeney

Our CPC Art Committee began 2024 with a show of amazing sketches of a variety of local “Houses of Worship” by Linda Sweetman (CPC member). On a special assignment for The Sacramento Union newspaper 40 years ago, Linda wrote a historical series of several local faith cultures, their backgrounds, and her sketches of their buildings. 60 of these drawings were on display in two shows.

The spring art showcased Kelsey Burke's lovely paintings of faith and warmth, with “Glimmers, Gardens & Groanings.”

Ann Kerr held her 80th birthday celebration with family in the DeVries Gathering Place, and Ann's timely art show reflected decades of her work in paintings and drawings.

The summer ended with an incredible oil painter, Tom Strychacz, who is a friend of Pastor Keith DeVries. Tom's intricate detail and whimsy from living and traveling in England and California, inspired us all.

Our youth group shared their own thoughts on gratitude and their many blessings with photography and other mixed media. Michael Lombrano, Youth Director, worked with them, showcasing what they were “Thankful For.” We ended the year with an artists' reception honoring our youth.

The Art Committee has been honored to incorporate events celebrating the artists, including “Meet the Artist Sunday” and “Artist Reception.” It is our hope to lift spirits, reminding us of all of our blessings of joy from our God.

Men's Morning Fellowship

Tim Farley

In 2024 we continued to meet on Thursday mornings at 8:30. We're still doing our pandemic approach of meeting on Zoom - except on the first Thursday of the month when we meet at 9:00 at Denny's.

Our discussions continued to be loosely based on the Upper Room lesson for the preceding day because that day suggested questions on the lesson. Our discussions are lively and often include personal stories, concerns, and needs.

We usually have 7 or 8 attendees, and there's plenty of room for new participants. Come join us for a great way to start your day. 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 either attend our meetings or knit and crochet at home. New members are always welcome. We delivered 19 shawls last year.

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. 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 and one Sewing Circle. Naomi Circle, led by Bonnie Hard, meets in the morning of the third Thursday of the month and Mary Martha Circle, led by Lisa Benadom and Kathy Daigle, meets that afternoon. Dorcas Sewing Circle, led by Carolyn McGregor, meets in the morning of the first Tuesday of the month.

We are blessed to have Pastor Keith lead us in a monthly introduction to our Bible Study. This Pastor led Bible Study is held on Zoom in the morning on the second Thursday of the month. Terry Sakuda and Lisa Benadom provide comprehensive articles to the Mission Bell regarding the month's Bible Study lesson in addition to important PW news and events.

Our Mission concerns this year included the Sacramento Area Alzheimer's Association, Solar Cookers International, Wind Youth Services in Sacramento, Emancipated Foster Children, Charlotte House at Carmichael HART, Supper on Saturday, CPC Food Closet, Christmas Gift Ministry, and Loaves and Fishes. Dorcas Sewing Circle completed 80 quilted throws which were given to the Sacramento County program for emancipated foster children and Family Promise families.

During Advent we sponsored the El Camino High School Madrigal Choir concert in the Sanctuary on December 6. We are indebted to Margo Scandella for organizing the concert with choir director Tess Kelly. We appreciate Olene Chard's baking the brownies as a "thank you" to the choir members which were served after the concert.

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.

Finally, we wish to thank Karen Gray and Julie Ueltzen for all the support they give PW 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-to-one Christian caregiving to CPC members as well as to others in the community who reached out, free of charge. Stephen Ministers have met weekly this year with individuals who have been going through life challenges. All Stephen Ministers completed the 50 hours of instruction and practice required to become Stephen Ministers and continued to meet twice a month for support as Stephen Ministers. In April 2024, four more Stephen Ministers were commissioned. Stephen Ministry Leaders continued to mail out individual letters and copies of the four very helpful “Journeying Through Grief” booklets to people dealing with the loss of a loved one, and write an article each month about Stephen Ministry for the Mission Bell.

2024 Membership & Outreach Division

Julie Ueltzen, Chair

Throughout 2024, 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 greetings at the back of the church, we welcomed over 90 new visitors of all ages in 2024. 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.

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

Membership

We continue to host Ask the Pastor events before each new member class. The Ask the Pastor meeting offers newcomers and members a chance to find out more about CPC in a casual environment. Ask the Pastor events took place in February and September followed by new member classes in April and October. The new member classes welcomed 13 new members and 5 youth confirmands in 2024. Additionally, with assistance from church staff we facilitated a cleanup of the membership rolls, deleting members who have not attended *or* contributed for over 2 years.

Opportunity Knocks

Sharon MacLean continues to serve as the Engagement Coordinator. “Opportunity Knocks” has been going strong in 2024 as Sharon continued 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 frequent Mission Bell articles and at a monthly table during coffee hour on Sundays. Occasionally members of other divisions or ministries joined her 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.

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, and Asexual and more (LGBTQIA+) community. We focused on education, signage, and communication during 2024.

Welcome All: We continue to purchase pronoun buttons and stickers, making them available to the congregation at the sign-in tables in the Sanctuary. Pronoun pins extend an intentional welcome to all children of God. Many LGBTQIA+ people have experienced previous discrimination and rejection by sharing their pronouns. By sharing our own pronouns, much like introducing ourselves with our own names, we welcome others to share their own. This small gesture communicates a powerful message. We see you, accept you, and honor your identity as a child of God. In June, the Task Force hosted a weekly table display following Sunday service that provided the history of PRIDE, a variety of informative handouts, and cake to celebrate PRIDE on June 23.

Grow in Faith Together: We conducted a Lenten Book Study on *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. The class was well attended (average of 20 attendees each week, 28 different people) with active participation and very positive evaluations. They appreciated that it was Biblically based,

welcomed people to share regardless of where they were on their faith journey, challenged them in their reading of scripture, and resulted in new perspectives. During Session meetings Elders completed a study from “Frequently Asked Questions about Sexuality, the Bible, & the Church: Plain Talk about Tough Issues” a collection of essays from the Covenant Network (CovNet), which we affiliated with last year.

Connect with and serve our community and the world: The Task Force hosted a CovNet Workshop led by Rev. Brian Ellison, CovNet Executive Director, on Saturday, August 24, 2024, for our congregation and Presbytery, and beyond. The objective was to help all our congregations become more affirming and welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community. Brian also preached the following Sunday and then led an adult education class on the topic. Funding came from the Khoobyar Endowment funds. Ninety-six people participated in person or online, including representatives from 12 different churches, with about 40 people attending the Sunday adult education class.

The Inclusion Task Force reports to the Membership and Outreach Division and includes representation from that division, the Education Division, and the congregation at large. Kathy Lewis and Rae-Nani Stokes serve as Co-Chairs.

Harvest Festival

The annual CPC Harvest Festival occurred on October 30, 2024, with nearly 200 people in attendance. M&O hosted the event this year with support from many adult volunteers, youth volunteers, and CPC’s Children & Youth Ministry Director, Michael Lombrano. This event continues to be an excellent opportunity to invite friends and Carmichael community members to CPC.

Run to Feed the Hungry

M&O sponsored a now annual virtual Run to Feed the Hungry event on Thanksgiving Day. Over 30 people (and a few 4-legged friends) met Elder ElizaBeth Phillips at the church to run or walk the 5K distance through Ancil Hoffman Park, then returned to CPC for refreshments. The cost to participate in the “run” supports the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS) which provides families, children, and seniors in Sacramento County with the food they desperately need including through the Carmichael Food Closet. Participants continue to express appreciation for the opportunity to begin Thanksgiving Day raising money for SFBFS while enjoying exercise and companionship with their CPC family.

2024 Mission Division

Bob Curtis, Chair

Carmichael Presbyterian Church (CPC) is connected to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 Initiative. Accordingly, Mission Division decisions are guided by 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 Bob Curtis (Chair), David Mathews, and Rebecca Parker. CPC members Barbara Farley and John Wallace also serve in the Division.

Family Promise:

CPC supports Family Promise, a nonprofit organization committed to helping homeless low-income families achieve lasting independence, and Safe Harbor, part of the Family Promise mix. CPC's support of Family Promise happens in a few 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 37 families who within 90 days are able to move on to more permanent situations. A total of 15 families were housed at Safe Harbor in 2024.

Four times a year, CPC serves Safe Harbor by offering gardening, yard and kitchen clean up, gift cards, groceries, gift baskets, and household essentials. In 2024, CPC served Safe Harbor during the weeks of March 10, June 23, September 22, and December 29. For 2025, our service will be the weeks of March 9, June 22, September 21, and December 28.

In addition to helping 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 are 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 keeping families off the streets permanently. Case management is the key to giving families the tools and resources they need to gain and maintain self-sufficiency. Since the inception of Family Promise in 2005, 417 have families completed the program.

Alternative Gift Market:

This year the Alternative Gift Market, an in-person social and shopping event in McMillen Hall, was held November 3. The one-day event was a success raising over \$8,300 for various social ministries. This year Rodney Dahlberg, David Mathews, Patty Kepner and Bob Curtis along with many volunteers executed this event.

Special Offerings:

CPC generously supported the four Presbyterian Church (USA) Special Offerings with \$13,687 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 \$4,035.

- Pentecost Offering supports at-risk children, youth, and young adults. A total of \$3,770 was contributed and split between the Synod and CPC to support local mission projects.
- Peace & Global Witness Offering funds support peacemaking efforts and education. The total contributed to the fund was \$2,865 and split between the Synod and CPC to support local mission needs.
- Christmas Joy Offering supports current and retired church workers who are in need and provides funds to support our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges that equip communities of color. The 2024 contribution totaled \$3,017.

Denominational Support:

In 2024, CPC gave \$63,851 for Mission ministries and program support through our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, which included \$15,451 in per capita contributions. A portion of these funds return to the Presbytery of North Central California, including an allocation for a variety of mission activities.

Carmichael Homeless Assistance Resource Team (Carmichael HART):

CPC continues to join with other faith communities in the Carmichael area as part of the Carmichael Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART). Other congregations include Christ Community Church, Crossroads Church, Latter Day Saints – Carmichael Stake, St. Michael’s, American River Community Church, and Congregation Beth Shalom. HART is locally organized to assist homeless individuals in Carmichael and other areas as well. Other HART groups are organized in Midtown, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Folsom, North Sacramento, Arden Arcade, Fair Oaks, and Orangevale. Among many activities, HART sponsors a mentor program, runs a backpack drive for homeless youth in San Juan Unified School District and delivers lunches to local homeless people every Thursday. Finally, Carmichael HART also works closely with Community Healthworks to provide healthcare services to homeless people in the greater Carmichael area.

CPC partners with Carmichael Hart in several areas:

- Winter Respite – CPC, along with Carmichael HART coordinate the Winter Respite program, where McMillen Hall is available one day a week for food, warmth, & respite in January and February.
- Transitional Housing – Carmichael Presbyterian continues to support Carmichael HART through the transitional housing program for men at Robertson House, which is owned by our church. City Net provides management services for both Robertson House and Charlotte House, which provides transitional housing for women/families.
- Shower Ministry – Carmichael HART volunteers facilitate 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 rest and 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

The Carmichael Food Closet continues to partner with Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS), Walmart, Grocery Outlet and Safeway with the federal program “Feeding America.” Feeding America encourages food outlets to share surplus food with Food Closets rather than throw it away. This year we added a new program through the Food Bank called TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program). This is a government program that processes farm surplus foods and provides it to food distribution centers. Each month we receive up to eight items of high protein foods that we can distribute in addition to the

donations we receive from other churches including American River Community Church, Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The Food Closet also receives fresh fruit and vegetables from the CPC Community Garden and the Carmichael Community Garden.

The Kids Can Drive in October asks students in schools in the greater Carmichael area to donate nonperishable food. The food is picked up by a team of dedicated Food Closet volunteers, sorted and shelved for distribution. A total of 16,000 pounds or 8 tons of food was collected and most has already been distributed.

At least 4000 pounds, or 2 tons, of food is distributed each week. The Carmichael Kiwanis Club supports the Food Closet with donations that help us supplement distribution to families with children. 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. Our goal is to have a minimum of 9 healthy meals per person in each grocery bag. 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 for distribution.

At Thanksgiving the Food Closet distributed 100 complete turkey dinners. In addition to all the trimmings, each family received a \$15.00 gift certificate to go towards a turkey or other items for their dinner.

In addition to serving those who come to the Food Closet, excess food is sent to a homeless ministry supported by Crossroads Church that distributes food to the encampments that are remote and with limited resources. Supper on Saturday (SOS), the Carmichael HART Thursday Lunch Program, HART's Saturday showers and HART Winter Respite are also supported by the Food Closet.

During 2024, to qualify for the TEFAP program, the Food Closet eliminated any barriers for people seeking food. Rather than a phone-in order system serving only 25-30 families, there is now an open delivery system. Anyone who comes between the hours of 1:30 and 2:00 is served and we are now able to serve as many as 60 families through this open window. Our hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 2:00 pm, and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

For the first time, Carmichael Food Closet has a 20-hour-a-week paid position to help administer our food processing and distribution. Two very qualified women have served in this position this past year and they have developed organizational systems that allow us to serve an increased number of families in an extremely efficient way.

The CPC Mission Division and Food Closet Leadership Team are grateful to CPC for their continuing support of this ministry by devoting space and utilities, but this work cannot be done without volunteers. We need at least 12 volunteers a day to work to prepare food for distribution from 8:30 to 10:30 am and then distribute the food from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Volunteers also use the van to pick up food at grocery locations assigned to our Food Closet. **If you can join our team, go to [Signup.com](https://signup.com) or send an email to carmfc5645@gmail.com, and find a time to volunteer with us.** The Leadership Team can also answer any questions.

Barbara Farley, Chairperson
Monique Schubert
Helen Magnuson

Andrea Heckenlively
 Ernie Chard
 Gloria Kelley
 Pete Caffarta
 Chris Fenstromaker
 Ivan Herman, staff liaison

BREAK DOWN of 2024 GUESTS:

2024		Reported as PAN		Reported as TEFAP	
Month	# Distributions	# Households	# Individuals	# Households	# Individuals
January	16	972	2698	0	0
February	18	1007	2833	0	0
March	16	978	2646	0	0
April	18	999	2689	0	0
May	18	623	2482	0	0
June	16	256	1050	617	2386
July	16	195	195	593	2198
August	18	150	150	759	2949
September	16	200	200	681	2646
October	19	243	243	850	3579
November	15	445	596	601	2605
December	17	308	308	749	3299
Total Distributions		203			
Total Households		11,226			
Total Individuals		35,722			

With the addition of TEFAP to our food distribution, our accounting system has changed and no longer reflects a breakdown of guests by age. We can, however, compare total persons and total households between 2023 and 2024. In 2023, we served 30,290 individuals compared to 35,722 individuals in 2024 with a 16% increase. These numbers reflect 11,480 households in 2023, and 11,226 in 2024 which indicates we are serving fewer individuals in small households, but more people in larger family units.

Supper on Saturday

Barbara Farley

On the third Saturday of each month at 4:00 pm, a team of volunteers prepares and serves a special dinner for anyone who can come. A banner is hung from the church sign at Myrtle Lane and flyers are sent home in grocery bags from the Food Closet inviting guests to come and share a meal. An average of 50 to 60 people attend each month. Many come early to save a place for a friend to join them. Sadly, Larry, who always came early to play the piano, has been ill and has been unable to entertain guests. However, he encourages one of his piano students to practice playing for an audience by coming when she can. It is such a privilege it is to be able to enjoy classical and popular music while we dine.

We coordinate with the Carmichael Food Closet and often can fix very special meals when there is a donation of meat that is too large to give out to a family, such as 10-pound chubs of ground beef and a full brisket. Casseroles are always popular. Thanksgiving and Christmas are always special meals – Branden

Rodgers of Jackson Catering prepares our Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the trimmings, and we always have ham for our Christmas meal. The ham meal carries over to January when we prepare Ham and Bean Soup, a favorite of our guests. Our guests are always appreciative of a dinner service on church china with real silverware and flowers on the tables.

Trina Spivack and I are grateful for our faithful volunteers who come each month to prepare and serve the dinner. Many volunteers are from our church community, and others come because they love our ministry of food sharing. **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.

2024 Worship Division

Kathy Phillips, Chair

Division Members: Kathy Phillips (Elder, Chair); Terry Sakuda (Elder); Deb Sweetman (Deacon); Whitney MacLean (Deacon); Noor Bitar (AV Tech); 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 and Baptisms)

Our Pastors: Our pastors lead our worship services with the help of lay people. In 2024, the CPC congregation continued to benefit from the wisdom, counsel and leadership of Pastor Keith DeVries and Associate Pastor Ivan Herman. They lead us as we navigate the changes, challenges, grace, and encouragement that we encounter as part of CPC.

Worship Environment/Worship Experience: In 2024 we tried to balance the concerns that remained from the pandemic with our desire to make our worship services welcoming and meaningful for all. Under the continuing leadership of Music Director Keith Atwater, the hybrid service contained a blend of many musical styles and incorporated many different musicians. We continued to keep health concerns in mind by having Communion bread in individual cups. At the end of the year, we began the discussion of returning to a more earth-friendly way of serving that would lessen the amount of plastic and paper waste that is created. As the Deacon Communion coordinator, Whitney MacLean worked to implement each change as we discussed ways to improve the experience for all. The practice of “greeting one another” as a formal part of the order of worship had been reintroduced in 2023 and is the norm once again. In person attendance increased gradually throughout the year and live stream viewing remained strong.

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, Kiyo Romais and David Stoffel managed the livestream and in-house sound system during worship, projected the words of songs and readings onto the overhead screen, projected the video of the service onto screens around the campus, and made the recordings available for future viewing on the church website and by DVD.

Music Department:

2024 was a year full of diverse music, with many musicians sharing their talents. Music Director Keith Atwater continued to integrate diverse styles of music and utilize various combinations of musicians to create a meaningful and truly “blended” service. 2024 was also a year of change. Organist/pianist Rick Schlosser left at the end of August to take the position as Minister of Music and Worship at Saint Mark’s Methodist Church. Fortunately, former Northminster Presbyterian Church organist/pianist Heidi Van Regenmorter came on board in early September. She accompanied Sanctuary Choir rehearsals and played Sunday morning worship services about three out of four Sundays each month. Her outstanding talent on piano and organ in a variety of styles is greatly appreciated by all. Sometimes she played Gospel or “jazzy” sacred duets with her husband, bass guitarist Merlyn Van Regenmorter. In addition, Keith Atwater sang

occasional solos and duets. A few Sundays in 2024 were blessed with other skilled pianists and organists: Trina Spivack, Zorana Randjelovic-Flores, Mikhail Sumarokov, and Jonathan Doram.

The Praise Team led two songs in worship each week throughout the year, in addition to performing a prelude or postlude. 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), Michael Schwab (guitar) and Dr. Merlyn Van Regenmorter (bass guitar). Keith Atwater filled in on bass the days Merlyn was away.

The Sanctuary Choir sang two or three Sundays a month from the end of August through the end of June. Their choral music spanned styles and eras – from Baroque and Classical to spirituals, folk-inspired anthems, and contemporary works, sometimes with flute or clarinet, soprano saxophone, drums, and bass. Additionally, the tenors and basses occasionally sang old-time Gospel hymns and songs and they sang at Bob Beckert’s memorial. The Sanctuary choir continued the tradition of an “off campus” mini retreat in late August, with voice and musicianship coaching, singing new anthems for the fall, and dining together afterward at a nearby restaurant. In 2024 they used the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento’s domed Main Hall.

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, French horn, saxophone, clarinet, and cello.

Rick Schlosser served as interim director of **Mission Bells** until the first of September when he went to Saint Mark’s. CPC was very blessed to welcome a talented new director, Rikki Pratt. A few new members joined this handbell ensemble, which played once a month (with summer off) and were an integral part of Easter and Advent seasons.

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 sang songs that focus on praise and thanksgiving and that remind us that God will always be there for us. A new addition this year was the chance to perform with hand chimes in May. They ended 2024 by participating in the Christmas pageant.

Special Events:

Other Worship Services:

- The Lenten Season started on Ash Wednesday with a Taize-style service 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. The Maundy Thursday service revolved around the reading of scripture, music by the Sanctuary Choir, Communion, and hymn singing by all. On Good Friday a dramatic reading written by Karen Orlando on the Seven Last Statements of Christ was the focus of a service filled with music, reflection, and prayer. Easter Sunday was celebrated with a well-attended sunrise service overlooking the American River followed by services in the sanctuary at 9:00 and 11:00.
- Youth Sunday on May 19th coincided with Pentecost and was celebrated with the waving of red streamers, music, the reception of the youth membership class, and testimonies by several youth.
- On October 27th we observed All Saints Day as a time of remembrance in honor of those who entered the Church Triumphant in the prior year.

- After a five-year break, December brought a children's Christmas pageant with some revisions. The changes included having it in the sanctuary during the worship service and including older youth and some adults as participants. The leadership remained the same with Nancy Studer and Kathy Phillips directing and organizing, and Anne Parker and Lisa Benadom working with the children on speaking parts. As always, the behind-the-scenes contributions from staff and many volunteers turned it into an Advent celebration for the whole congregation.
- 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 mezzo-soprano Hannah Ludwig and Zorana Randjelovic-Flores, 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, candle lighters during Advent, 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.

2024 Deacons' Report

Deb Sweetman, Moderator

Current Board of Deacons Officers

Co-Moderators – Deb Sweetman & 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

Nominating Committee Liaison – Jan Olson

Pew Clean-Up & Restocking - Ushers

Usher Coordinator – *OPEN*

Flower Delivery Coordinator – Marsha Cook

Pantry Coordinator – Jami McCray

In-Home Communion Coordinator – Erin Pace

Worship Committee Liaison – Deb Sweetman

The Deacon Board currently has 18 Deacons, with 8 going off the board in June. We will have several Coordinator vacancies to fill. Open positions for 2025-2026 include Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Usher Coordinator, Communion Coordinator, In-Home Communion Coordinator, and Healing Meals Coordinator.

Last year, Usher Coordinator Mary Thomas implemented an Usher sign-up spreadsheet for the entire year with all usher positions. Although this is an OPEN position in need of being filled, Mary graciously continued to send emails to those that volunteer to usher with the dates and positions to be filled. They returned emails with the dates chosen and position. She updated the spreadsheet and sent it out to everyone – a system that works beautifully! Through Opportunity Knocks, we continue to spread the message that “All are Welcome” to volunteer to usher. One does not need to be a deacon or elder to be an Usher.

Having a specifically designated Coffee Usher continued to succeed for Coffee Fellowship set-up, serving and clean-up, along with the assigned Pulpit Usher to help serve and clean-up. Coffee Fellowship continues to see an increase in people each week. Fellowship and Nurture asks Marinerships to take turns, along with many other individuals to provide cookies and other baked goods each week.

A new cookie ministry began in January 2025, led by Lynette Ledesma, after dinner on Wednesdays to make cookie dough and cookies for Coffee Fellowship. Kids and adults are welcome to be involved in the cookie making process. Sounds Fun!

Becoming proactive and aware of food allergies and labeling peanut allergies, tree nut allergies, and gluten free treats has been beneficial, and appreciated.

The Care and Share Ministry continues to be the primary caring outreach and communication with those who are unable to attend church, along with the delivery of Upper Room devotionals and cards. Contacts this past year included calls, cards, flower deliveries, in-person visits, Upper Room deliveries and other contacts, an average of 40 contacts per month. This extraordinary ministry requires the dedication of past, present and future Deacons. Many thanks this past year to our Coordinator, Patty Kepner.

Christmas Gift Ministry is our community outreach for local families in need. This year we provided 37 families with gift cards and grocery cards. Such a huge blessing! Julie Ueltzen began in September by contacting area schools, Family Promise and any congregation families who would benefit from this

ministry. She coordinated with school secretaries to identify low-income families and their needs. The gift card list was narrowed to 6 cards most frequently requested over the past several years, which streamlined the coordination and purchasing process. Julie determined all the gift cards needed and categorized by store, and also calculated the amount of donations to support the ministry. This is a huge job, and she deserves a big Thank You!

The Christmas Gift Ministry Team included Lilly Janik and Deb Sweetman in addition to card purchasing deacons and volunteers. Again, Lilly was amazing – she wrote Mission Bell articles, Minutes for Mission, coordinated gift card purchasing and put together all the gift bags. Deb and Lilly oversaw the donation table at the Alternative Gift Market and in the DeVries Gathering Place each Sunday. We provided Christmas cards at the CGM table each week for anyone who wanted to write a special note for the families, and they were included in each family’s gift bags.

Deb delivered the gifts to all the schools and Kathy Lewin delivered gifts to Family Promise. We are grateful to all who participated in purchasing gift cards and writing Christmas cards. Although donations were down, Christmas Gift Ministry remains a vital community outreach, and the recipient families are so appreciative!

Due to the church needs to reduce our budget in 2025, our yearly budget will be making the following changes for a total reduction in budget of \$1150:

Account:	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Care & Share	\$300	\$0
Coffee Fellowship	\$3500	\$3000
Communion	\$850	\$500

The Deacons fund remains solid and provides assistance with gas cards, utility assistance, and other essentials for those in need.

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

Christmas Gift Ministry

Gift cards purchased for 37 families.

Grocery Store (\$100 each) x 37	\$3700
Gift Cards (\$40 each):	
Walmart x74	\$2960
Ross x66	\$2640
Target x43	\$1720
Amazon x37	\$1480
Costco x22	\$880
Burlington x20	\$800
TOTAL	\$14180

2024 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 2023-2024, four congregation members were on the committee. Its Moderator is a 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 performing 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 **2024-2025 Nominating Committee** includes the following individuals:

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

2024 Financial Report

Carmichael Presbyterian Church

	2024		2023 Combined Total	2022 Combined Total	2021 Combined Total	2020 Combined Total	2019 Combined Total	2018 Combined Total
	General Fund	21st Century Fund						
Assets								
Cash	\$ 134,748	\$ 436,482	282,716	436,482	436,456	695,085	\$742,272	\$ 724,565
Investments - Dedicated Accounts	1,014,221	-	1,362,201	-	1,141,731	740,770	395,802	215,015
Receivables - other/prepays	197,034	(11,137)	64,552	(11,137)	53,772	46,254	41,585	82,874
Receivable - pledge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivable - multi year pledges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Note Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction in Progress	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Property and Equipment, net	2,286,417	4,716,926	7,003,343	7,003,343	7,022,633	6,984,053	6,984,053	6,984,053
	\$ 3,632,420	\$ 5,142,271	\$ 8,712,812	\$ 8,675,639	\$ 8,654,592	\$ 8,514,214	\$ 8,163,712	\$ 8,006,507
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities								
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 26,663	-	25,570	18,197	33,768	7,360	3,039	26,663
Deferred pledges	62,813	-	48,613	86,068	100,492	82,700	47,105	62,813
Long term note payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inter-fund (receivable) payable	29,548	-	29,548	19,250	15,327	15,327	11,165	29,548
Total Liabilities	119,024	-	103,731	123,515	149,587	105,387	61,309	119,024
Net Assets								
Restricted	46,921	231,158	278,079	267,114	202,408	202,006	91,437	82,770
Un-Restricted	3,466,475	4,911,113	8,331,002	8,285,010	8,302,597	8,206,821	8,010,966	7,818,350
Total Net Assets	3,513,396	5,142,271	8,655,667	8,552,124	8,505,005	8,408,827	8,102,403	7,901,120
	\$ 3,632,420	\$ 5,142,271	\$ 8,712,812	\$ 8,675,639	\$ 8,654,592	\$ 8,514,214	\$ 8,163,712	\$ 8,020,144

Carmichael Presbyterian Church
Combined Statement of Activities
for the year ended

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
	General Fund	21st Century Fund	Combined Total	Combined Total	Combined Total	Combined Total	Combined Total
Revenues:							
General Fund Pledges	\$ 803,020	-	\$ 803,020	\$ 812,228	\$ 828,364	\$ 843,521	\$ 803,254
21st Century Contributions	-	30,859	\$ 30,859	\$ 21,799	\$ 17,777	\$ 34,164	187,162
Pre-school tuition	-	-	-	-	-	-	79,233
Dedicated Accounts	539,298	-	\$ 539,298	\$ 330,710	\$ 484,613	\$ 419,660	435,712
Other Income	56,922	11,982	\$ 68,904	\$ 43,157	\$ 30,169	\$ 54,029	112,487
	1,399,240	42,841	1,442,081	1,207,894	1,343,491	1,404,276	1,538,615
Expenses:							
General Fund:							
Worship	3,339	-	3,339	6,209	4,057	2,649	3,194
Education	3,941	-	3,941	2,168	3,306	11,150	7,701
Mbship&Outreach	1,524	-	1,524	-	70,799	-	1,092
Fellowship	338	-	338	-	393	600	2,442
Mission	70,431	-	70,431	72,851	70,799	66,120	68,481
Administration	781,740	-	781,740	769,221	724,972	755,424	732,588
Other	3,724	-	3,724	4,108	2,583	2,984	3,096
	865,037	-	865,037	857,898	805,717	829,341	817,502
Dedicated Accounts:							
Worship	4,028	-	4,028	1,837	2,215	18,890	8,118
Education	7,728	-	7,728	34,172	1,548	2,067	88,975
Fellowship	16,688	-	16,688	12,253	10,902	658	15,952
Mission	67,328	-	67,328	71,714	88,152	117,430	51,034
Administration	103,680	-	103,680	46,547	101,723	145,299	27,218
Gifts & bequests	159,034	-	159,034	31,232	88,992	42,441	110,252
Endowment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deacons	27,100	-	27,100	27,083	42,872	18,293	20,788
	385,586	-	385,586	224,838	350,704	317,858	322,337
21st Century:							
Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses	-	89,647	89,647	-	1,900	-	1,081
	-	89,647	89,647	-	1,900	-	1,081
Pre-school:							
Salaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses	1,250,623	89,647	1,249,099	779,125	1,156,421	256,264	1,140,920
Total Revenues in excess of expenses	\$ 148,617	\$ (46,806)	\$ 92,811	\$ 428,769	\$ 126,963	\$ 248,471	\$ 397,695
General Fund revenues less than of expenses	\$ (5,115)						
Dedicated Account Revenue in excess of exp	\$ 153,712						

