# MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2024

Volume LXIV Number 6

Tarida ahia Tarra

# **Building a Real Welcome for All God's People**

by Kathy Lewis, Inclusion Task Force

CPC is excited to welcome "Building a Real Welcome for All God's People: LGBTQIA+ People and the Church" on Saturday, August 24. This event will offer biblical and



theological founda-

tions and practical help for anyone trying to improve their own and the church's full embrace of LGBTQIA+ people. We'll consider how we as Presbyterians have his-

(Continued on page 3)

# **CPC Hosts Graduation for Afghan Refugee Women**

by Kathy Lewis

On May 30, CPC hosted a graduation celebration for two

classes of Afghan women in McMillen Hall. These

women complet-

ed Eng-

days a week during the school year provided by World Relief.

Two English language and integration classes for Afghan women celebrate their graduation with their families and teachers in McMillen Hall

lish language and integration classes three

Our volunteers— Marcia Weill (chair), Carol Jones, Debbie

> Nordeen, Alexis Davidson. Kathy Phillips, and Sharon Wise —all

worked

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### Pastor Keith L. DeVries Writes:

# "Coming Attractions"

Working behind the scenes for the past several years, **Tim Farley** has been chairing a Parking Lot Task Force. This group has been gathering information, entering into working relationships with contractors,

and preparing plans to introduce you, the members and friends of CPC, to a wonderful opportunity to be a part of turning a new parking lot from dream to reality. If vou've been in the back parking lot at all over the past few years, you know that it is in desperate need of major renovation and rebuilding.

The main goal of this task force is to finally complete one more component of our very first capital campaign in 1997: a new parking lot. Certain elements of

capital building projects often get put on the back burner due to other building priorities or lack of funding – both have happened with the parking lot. Now, according to the Parking Lot Task Force, it is time to "seize the day" and launch a capital campaign to raise funds for a parking lot that is in keep-

ing with our mission statement to "Welcome all," our core values as a Matthew 25 church, and our status as an Earth Care Congregation. The parking lot plans include a solar canopy, an ADA compliant ramp from the upper

"Now . . . it is time to
'seize the day' and
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parking area to the back of the church campus, lighting, new landscaping, and more accessible parking spaces.

Watch for "coming attractions" this summer and fall, starting with a Parking Lot Preview following worship on July 21. Congregational meetings, presentations, Q & A sessions,

information about funding sources and building loans, and the launch of a capital fundraising campaign will follow.

In addition to the upcoming parking lot project, I am excited to tell you about another

"coming attraction" at the end of July that will surely lift your spirits. This past week, I received an email from Hannah Ludwig, mezzo-soprano, gifted musician, and child of CPC who is now a professional opera singer. Hannah expressed her gratitude for this congregation surrounding her and her family with love and care after the passing of her mother in February. She wants to give something back in the form of a concert to be held on Sunday, July 28. We will share details as they come available. but I wanted to make sure you put on your calendar the afternoon of July 28. As with everything Hannah does, it promises to be ter-

rific!

Blessings on all of your coming attractions,

Pastor Keith

# ... Building a Real Welcome ...

(Continued from page 1) torically thought about issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, and how we have changed and acted in recent years. We'll dig into the Bible and theology, and see ways we may need to dig deeper in how we think and speak about diverse identities. And we'll work together to identify particular acts of hospitality, creativity, and witness, where we can use words and deeds to strengthen our congregations and our common life for all people.

The day's event at CPC will be led by the Rev. Brian D. Ellison, Executive Director of Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Registration is just \$10 per person and includes lunch. Check out the day's agenda on this page to see all of the great things we have planned.

Save the date! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors! You don't have to be Presbyterian to attend! We will also be inviting local churches and churches in our presbytery. Registration will start later in July. The CPC Inclusion Task Force is hosting this community event.

Contact People and the Church

# Saturday, August 24

8:30 a.m. Registration begins

Coffee and continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. Part 1 - Foundations

Understanding LGBTQIA+ and the history of LGBTQIA+ and the Presbyterian Church

10:15 a.m. Part 2—Building the Structure

A theology of welcome in our scriptures and our faith

11:45 a.m. Box Lunch

provided by Jackson Catering & Events

12:45 p.m. Part 3—Opening the Doors

Practical actions for congregations to authentically welcome all.

2:00 p.m. Questions and Conversation



image: Freepik.com

In addition to presenting the Saturday workshop, Brian will be preaching at CPC on Sunday, August 25, at 10:00 a.m. and leading an adult education discussion following the service.

Questions or want to get involved? Contact **Kathy Lewis** at kathyblewis@att.net.

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## ... Graduation ...

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together to set up, welcome, and clean up.

Pattie Shaw brought the flowers and helped set up. And in the kitchen, Brian Nordeen and Bill Dunn handled dishwashing!

Kathy Lewis organized the volunteers and tasks for the day. What a team!!

For the graduation celebration, CPC provided tablecloths, flowers, centerpieces, and decorative

napkins. and World Relief provided more decorations, pizza, and cake. The graduates provided lots and lots of wonderful Afghan food! It was a joyful celebration. One of the graduating ladies commented, "Everything is so beautiful. I feel like I am in a five-star restaurant with VIP service. I'm very surprised that they are doing all this for us. Seeing these senior volunteers, they are doing so much. In our culture, older women don't do all this." Kamila Khugvani, a World Relief caseworker, was happy to explain that it's our shared belief in God, who calls us to serve others.

Each of the 56 graduates was

stan and were now waiting patiently for their names to be called and applauded and kissed by their fellow students was an unforgettably uplifting time." Marcia also served as a Teaching Assistant throughout the year and got to experience the out-



The graduation celebration for World Relief included food, gifts of books, and recognition of volunteers.

individually recognized, re-

ceived a certificate, was given children's books in Pashto and English, and posed in a graduation cap for a picture. Marcia commented, "Knowing that many of those ladies were unable to go to school in Afghanicome of all those classes!

Heidi Guttschuss, our liaison with World Relief (and Education Supervisor), shared that her team said this was the best graduation they had experienced overall. She said, "It is such a blessing to have this church partnership."

### MISSION BELL DEADLINE

10th of each month for the following month's issue

Submit articles to

Karen Gray at <u>karen@carmichaelpres.org</u>
or mail/drop off a hard copy in the church office.

# **Children's & Youth Ministry**

by Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

### **Youth Room Open Hours:**

We're keeping the summer youth community spirit alive and offering a cool escape from the summer heat with Upper Room Open Hours on Mondays and Tuesdays! Michael Lombrano will be in the vouth room

our children's and youth minis-

tries. We would love to see you there!

Questions about children's or youth ministry?

Contact Michael Lombrano at michael@carmichaelpres.org or 916-486-9081.



Our graduating seniors are presented with quilts made in their favorite colors as the final step in our Stepping Stones of Faith program.

Zora Leslie enjoys the Youth Room open hours as the "Burrito Queen"

from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's a relaxed time for youth in 6th12th grade to come and go as you please. Whether it be hanging out, staying cool, taking a break from family, or just enjoying a change of environment, we hope to see you there.

Note: there will not be open hours on July 8 & 9 due to VBS

# Children/Youth Parent Meeting:

On Sunday, July 28 after service, all parents of children and youth involved in our church are welcome to join Michael Lombrano in the youth rooms for a short meeting. We will be going over the fall schedule and sharing updates on



# PARKING LOT PREVIEW SUNDAY, JULY 21



See, hear, and ask questions about the plans for CPC's new parking lot in the Sanctuary after worship during a 30-minute presentation.





All women ages 18 and up are welcome to join in CPC's Women's Retreat September 13-15 at the beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in Lake Tahoe. The theme for the weekend will be "Joy in the Journey" and our speaker will be Pastor Carrie Lane of El Dorado Federated Church. The cost is \$225 per person, which includes accommodation in the lodge, meals, and activities during the retreat. Feel free to invite a friend or relative.

Register soon before space fills up, and plan to join us for a refreshing and fun weekend. You can register and pay online at <a href="https://www.carmichaelpres.org/event/womens-retreat/">https://www.carmichaelpres.org/event/womens-retreat/</a> or in person in the church office. If cost is a factor, if you'd like to contribute to a scholarship fund, or if you have any questions at all, please

reach out to Sharon MacLean at bruce.sharonmac@gmail.com.

# Life Is Not Always Easy by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

"Summertime, and the living is easy..." or so the words to an old song go. We all seem to look forward to the slower pace of summer, warm weather (well, we wish it were just

a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ."

solve their care receiver's problems; rather they listen attentively, one-to-one, care, pray, encourage, and help the care receiver find their path to healing and wholeness. We now

warm and not HOT), long weekends. and maybe even a vacation.

These

may be



Four new Stephen Ministers were commissioned in April and are ready to offer compassionate care to people experiencing a life crisis.

our expectations and hopes, yet our reality may be very different. Our life may actually seem anything but easy—we may be dealing with unexpected loss: divorce, the death of a loved one, job loss, or with health issues that make our life difficult. We may not even have any clearly defined difficulty or crisis, yet our life seems lacking. We're going through the motions, yet we feel at a loss.

Whatever the reason for one's feelings of loss or distress, seeking connection with Jesus and other believers can help. Blaise Pascal suggests, "There is

In Matthew 18, Jesus promises to be with us, "Where two or three are gathered in my name I am among them..." That's one of the great miracles of Stephen Ministry, which our church offers to anyone going through a challenging time. When a Stephen Minister meets one-to-one with their care receiver, Jesus is present too. He brings the power of his transforming love, and the healing, peace, and comfort that only God can give. Whatever a care receiver says to their Stephen Minister is kept confidential. A Stephen Minister doesn't try to

compassionate care. Remember, God wants us to accept help when we might need it as well as to give help to others!

offer

their

Contact any of the Stephen Leaders for more information: John Wallace, Len Tozier, Mary Thomas, or Misty Dunn. If you would like to reach out for a Stephen Minister for yourself or for someone else, talk to a pastor or contact Len Tozier as the Care Referral Coordinator. The confidential CPC phone number for Stephen Ministry referrals is 916-486-0604.

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# Church Campout 2024: A Memorable Adventure in Nature

by Lilly Janik

I have been going to family camp since I was 10 years old

and 20 years later, it is still one of my favorite events at CPC! This year for the church camp-



CPC families of all sorts enjoyed a June playcampout at Sly Park. ine

out, several families gathered at Sly Park Campground which has a beautiful lake, forest, and was covered in wildflowers. Some of us who attended were there for the whole weekend, and others joined the group on Saturday for a day of fun.

One of the highlights of the campout was the easy hike we took to a waterfall. As we traversed winding trails through the forest, we enjoyed each other's company and were treated at the end with the falls! Some of us jumped into the refreshing waters, while others waded, or just enjoyed the view from the shore. After our hike, we went to the lake, a short walk from our campsites, where the group

went paddleboarding, swam in the cool waters, and played on

the beach.
We spent the time be-tween activities

board games, sharing food, and enjoying nature, seeing butterflies, frogs, tadpoles, fish, and lots of bugs (read: a plethora of mosquitoes). As evening descended, we gathered around the campfire, united in song and s'mores. Our spirited rendition of "American Pie" ended with the arrival of a friendly park ranger who applauded our song choice but reminded us it was officially quiet time.

Campouts are a testament to the enduring power of community and the wonders found in God's creation. We, as a church family, bound together to make sure everyone was provided for and welcomed in the fun. The best part for me is always the laughter, adventure, and memories shared, which lead to stronger and deeper connections as a community of faith. I already can't wait for next year!



All are welcome to this series of entertaining and intriguing classes from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon in McMillen Hall.

### July 7: The Dalai Lama and Tibetan Buddhism

Retired professor Keith Atwater will share a multimedia presentation as we celebrate His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Come learn more about this global celebrity, Tibet, and Buddhism.

### August 4: One Tree -Three Branches

Join Keith Atwater (and possibly his Catholic professor pal) as we compare and contrast the traditions, theology, worship, and music of our Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and American Protestant neighbors.

## **New Roof!**

In early June, crews spent about one week replacing the roof over the classrooms on the west side of the CPC campus (including the youth Upper Rooms). They worked through some of the hottest days of the year so far to repair dry rot in the walkway overhang and replace the 40+(?)-year-old shingles.

Thanks to the roofing crew and to Ron Morris and Tim Farley for arranging for and overseeing this much needed repair.



Repairing the dry rot in the overhang outside Room 209.



Installing the underlayment in preparation for shingles



*The finished product!* 

# In Our Church Family



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

- the family of Helene

  Crowley, who passed away
  on May 30.
- the family and friends of **Barbara Krefting**, who passed away on June 5.
- ➡ Jimmi Mishler and family on the loss of her husband, Phil Mishler, on June 8.
- The Harvey Swenson and family on the loss of his wife, Jane Swenson, on June 8.

# **Library Corner**

by Doris Beckert, Church Librarian

Marcus J. Borg

CONVICTIONS

A manifesto for progressive Christians

Sarah Young

Bread for the Journey

Henri Nouwen

More Wisdom

Over the last few months there have been a few donations to the church library, plus one purchase.

#### **Purchased:**

One Hundred
 More Wisdom
 Stories. Margaret Silf. (813 Sil)
 The original
 Wisdom Stories
 is out of print,
 but this new
 book expands
 on it.

#### **Donated:**

- The First
  Christmas.
  Marcus
  Borg (232)
- Convictions
  Marcus Borg(230)
- Letters to an
   American Lady,
   C.S. Lewis (230)
   (The above three

books were from the collection of Dick

Piper.)

Serenity in the Storm.; living through chaos by leaning on Christ.
Kayleigh McEnamy. (261.7
McE) The author was a former White House press secretary.

 Unlearning God: how unbelieving helped me believe. (261.1)

- Anti-Racist Baby, Ibram X. Kendi. (Easy)
- *Jesus Today*. Sarah Young (242.2)
- Memo for a Movie:
   life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Theodore Gill
   (920 Bon)
- Prayers of Kierkegaard. Perry LeFevre (242.8)
- Use of Symbolism in Christian Education. Dorothy
   Fritz (246)
  - Bread for the Journey.Henri Nouwen. (242.22)

The library is open on Sundays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on a self service basis. Ask at the church office for admittance at other times. Checkouts are for three weeks.

# Vacation Bible School— It's Not Too Late!



There are still spots available for children in preschool through 6th grade to enjoy a week of games, music, crafts, and learning as they "dive into friendship with God" at CPC's Vacation Bible School (VBS) July 8-12. The cost is just \$20 per child with scholarships available upon request.

VBS runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day and promises to be filled with

fun for everyone! Register

at <a href="https://carmichaelpresbyteri-">https://carmichaelpresbyteri-</a>

an.breezechms.com/form/0789c3, scan the QR code, or come by the church office

Interested in volunteering for VBS? Questions about registration? Contact **Michael Lombrano** at 916-486-9081 or michael@carmichaelpres.org.



# More on Art: "Glimmers, Gardens, and Groanings"

by Lori Keeney

In our current CPC Art Show on display in the DeVries Gathering Place Art Gallery, artist Kelsey Burke shares that she believes she was created to create. She feels that each promise-filled piece is an invitation to consider our own longing for restoration, similar to how Kelsey anchors her artist's soul to Jesus' proclamation that

He will make all things new. (Revelation 21:5)

To many, spiritual thoughts in a garden can be felt simply ..."He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own." Deb Dana, a licensed clinical social worker who coined the word glimmer suggests, "Find something that reminds you of the feeling of being anchored ... and put it somewhere you'll see



Artist **Kelsey Burke** (top) shares many of her paintings in the current art show, including "Poppy Frolic" (above) and a series of paintings to remind us to TRUST (left).

it as you move throughout your day." When creating a piece, Kelsey feels connected with the Spirit. Both exploring and painting are for her deep groanings of prayer as she creates with her Creator. Many of you may know

Kelsey, or remember her from our CPC Women's Retreat in April 2017, when she provided leadership and a group art lesson on chalk pastel (art on sandpaper), which was on display at CPC in early 2018. You may also know her husband who was a pastor at Fremont Presbyterian Church.

We truly thank Kelsey for sharing her inspirational and colorful artwork through her

> creative enthusiasm. Kelsev's show runs through July 2, 2024.

Beginning July 3, 2024, our CPC Art Gallery welcomes artist and friend to many,

Ann Kerr. Ann has always enjoyed drawing and painting,

along with photography. We are pleased to display her art, along with some of her latest collections. Ann continues her love of painting and photography, which we are so glad she is still enjoying.

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## **Scuttlebutt**

### **News from CPC's Marinerships**

Companionship

On a beautiful summer day (June 1), the Compan-



just

davs

12

ers, but there were small gift shops with knickknacks and potted succulents for sale. After strolling through the grounds, we ordered sandwiches and salads in the cafe and then gath-

ionship met at the Flower Farm in Loomis for a delicious lunch and delightful conversation. We were happy to have both Jenny and Keith DeVries join us for a

> good visit as well as Hal Millering who had hip replacement

before! Kathy Daigle and Carol and Harry Jones arranged this event, and we learned that the Flower Farm is a wedding venue and a turn of the century Bed and Breakfast destination.

In addition, the Farm shares space with a working citrus or-

ered at a large picnic table to eat our delicious lunches. The Flower Farm was busy with lots of visitors but everyone was enjoying themselves. We had a good time visiting with each other and learning about each other's summer plans.

Our next meeting will be a celebration of July 4th. If you'd like to visit our ship, please contact our Lookout, Sharlene St. Clair.

### Skipjacks

Companionship members enjoyed a lovely June day at the Loomis Flower Farm.

On June 6 the Skipjacks trekked to Taber Ranch and Event Center in Capay Valley where we were served by out-

(Continued on page 13)



Skipjacks ventured to Taber Ranch in Capay Valley for wine tasting in June.

# Presbyterian Women 2024-2025 Bible Study: "Let Justice Roll Down"

by Terry Sakuda

CPC's Presbyterian Women

will join other PW
groups throughout the country
in the 2024-2025
Horizons Bible
study: Let Justice
Roll Down: God's
Call to care for
Neighbors and All
Creation by Patricia

K. Tull. Pastor Keith

DeVries will lead an

introduction and Lesson 1 on

Thursday, September 19 in

McMillen Hall. Starting

McMillen Hall. Starting in October, lessons 2 through 9 will be led by one of our pastors on the second Thursday of each month through May of 2025.

In the nine lessons of the Bible study, we will discuss the call to care

for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with

particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. We will learn that in God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fastchanging world.

If you are interested in the Bible study and would like to purchase the book please contact Terry Sakuda at terry.sakuda@yahoo.com. The price per book is expected to be \$12. I will be ordering the books in July. All women and men as well are invited to enjoy this Bible Study. If you have any questions about this Bible Study or PW circles, contact Bonnie Hard for Naomi Circle or Kathy Daigle or Lisa Benadom for Mary Martha Circle.

## ... More Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 12)

standing sommelier, Lisa Torgerson. What a pleasant time we enjoyed on this wine tasting outing!

Our prayers go to **Jim**-

mi Mishler and her family upon the passing of Phil Mishler.



The Skipjacks enjoyed wine tasting at the beautiful Taber Ranch Winery in June.

# Sundays @ CPC

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

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



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

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



# Coffee Fellowship & Youth Bible Study @ 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie while you browse the Art Exhibit in the DeVries Gathering Place or chat with friends old and new following worship. Youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade can join Youth Bible study in the Upper Rooms.



# Follow CPC on Social Media



### **Facebook**

https://www.facebook.com/carmichaelpres

OR

### Join our Facebook Group

"Friends of Carmichael Presbyterian Church"



Instagram

@carmichaelpresbyterian



And be sure to check out our website

www.carmichaelpres.org

## **Our CPC Staff**

The Rev. Keith L. DeVries

The Rev. Ivan N. Herman

Keith Atwater, Music Director

Rick Schlosser,

Organist & Interim Bell Choir
Director

Michael Lombrano,

Children's & Youth Ministry

Director

Paul & Mary Camozzi,

Childcare Providers

Karen Gray,

**Executive Assistant** 

Julie Ueltzen,

Church Secretary

Paul Shultz.

Financial Administrator

Ron Morris,

Maintenance Manager

Christian Bolen, Custodian

Megan Dye,

Food Closet

Operations Manager

Gabe Bisho, Pianist

Will Condrey, Drummer

Michael Schwab, Guitarist

Merlyn Van Regenmorter,

Bassist

Steve Parker, Bruce MacLean, Michael Gray, Noor Bitar, Avonlee Janik, and David Stoffel, Audio/Video Technicians

# **Our Mission**

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

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



## **Contact Us**



### by phone:

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

### Extensions:

Keith DeVries	203	Julie Ueltzen	200
Ivan Herman	202	Michael Lombrano	207
Paul Shultz	205	Ron Morris	206
Karen Gray	201	Keith Atwater	208

### via e-mail:

11101111	
Keith DeVries	keith@carmichaelpres.org
Ivan Herman	ivan@carmichaelpres.org
Michael Lombrano	michael@carmichaelpres.org
Julie Ueltzen	carmichaelpres@gmail.com
Karen Gray	karen@carmichaelpres.org
Paul Shultz	paul@carmichaelpres.org
Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Keith Atwater	music@carmichaelpres.org
Rick Schlosser	rick@carmichaelpres.org

The church office is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.





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