MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2024

Volume LXIV Number 5



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

June 2 Hymn Sing

Join in singing your favorite, beloved hymns in the Sanctuary. In addition to taking your requests, we'll sing and share briefly the history of several classic hymns and how they became 'hits.'

July 7 The Dalai Lama and Tibetan Buddhism

Retired professor Keith Atwater will share a multimedia presentation in McMillen Hall as we celebrate His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 89th 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) in McMillen Hall as we compare and contrast the traditions, theology, worship, and music of our Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and American Protestant neighbors.

Bring your coffee and cookies and questions!

"Glimmers, Gardens & Groanings" Art Show

by Lori Keeney

The current exhibit in the DeVries Gathering Place Gallery features the creations of **Kelsey Burke**, a selftrained art enthusiast who has always had an



Kelsey Burke's art is displayed in the DeVries Gathering Place.

artistic outlet, whether it was in the margins of a school notebook, on walls, furniture or even floors, from her youth and into adulthood. She truly enjoys (Continued on page 3)

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"Happy Pride!"

June is here! Happy Pride!
This month Queer and Trans
folx and their allies gather for
parades, dances, parties, teaching moments and so much more.
But in the last few years Pride
Month has taken on more capi-

talistic and corporate flavors even as antiqueer and antitrans bills are on the rise in many state legislatures in the USA, and even greater criminalization of

queer existence in other parts of the world that often rationalizes violence against those who are deemed different and disposable.

What is Pride, and why should the church care? The Queer community has a history of being ostracized. The social stigma and shame that come with that history are countered by encouraging people to take pride in their identities, sexual orientation, and gender expression. Part of "coming out" is moving from hiddenness to increased visibility, even allies can have a coming out story. While some of the corporatization of Pride is arguably superficial, the church has an opportunity to dive deep to encounter Jesus through those often pushed to

the margins and to rejoice in the gospel of Jesus that God's love is meant for all.

"But isn't pride a mortal sin?" While in Reformed Theology we don't categorize sin into mortal and venial categories, we

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do recognize that sin is brokenness between God and God's people. Reformed Theologian Shirley Guthrie explains that "sin always means broken relationships. It means unwillingness to be what we are as human beings in the image of God, human beings who are ourselves only as we live in community with God and our fellow human beings." (Christian Doctrine, 221) If pride is a celebration that brings dignity and worth to God's beautiful and diverse creation, then it is not sin: pride is sinful when it elevates some people above others with claims of superiority.

This year, it is more important than ever to stand in solidarity with the people who

are often demonized and marginalized, especially the LGBTQIA+ community. Find ways to celebrate Pride month!

Celebrate Queer Joy-

Pride is a time for laughter, fun, and authentic joy. Queer joy is

also contagious. Empowering people to celebrate who they are also empowers others to search for who they are and find themselves.

Support Queer Business and Communities

- Find a local queer owned business to support. Check out the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Com-

merce for ideas.

Integrate Queer Theology

- Our theologies are in need of a liberation boost. Under the liberation theology umbrella are queer theologies that expand our ideas of God and the divine. We must continue our work of inclusion through music, liturgy, and ritual.

Empower Queer Youth - Young people are the future and meeting young people where they are is essential in empowering them. Our queer youth need support because of increasing anti-trans legislation and discrimination and bullying.

(Continued on page 4)

... Art Show ...

(Continued from page 1)

landscape creations, sharing a glimpse of the colors beyond what is seen by the naked eye.

In this new art show titled "Glimmers, Gardens & Groanings," Kelsey anchors her artist's soul to Jesus' proclamation that he will make all things new.

(Revelation 21:5)

Are you wondering how this title was chosen? This is how Kelsey describes her show.

most aware of his pruning, of the weeds that compete for our space and resources, and how sometimes even the dying things create the richest soil.

She is fascinated by the simplicity of the tulip, the abundance of the peony and that

Artist **Kelsey Burke** shares her artwork in

"Glimmers, Gardens & Groanings"

"GLIMMERS are the opposite of triggers.

While a trigger makes us feel anxious, unsafe or withdrawn, GLIMMERS are small moments that make us feel connected, safe, and at peace.

Kelsey's little gold-leafembellished paintings are meant to be displayed where they can remind you or your loved one of a GLIMMER you want to remember. They are perfect for placing on a desk, shelf or window sill.

Why the GARDENS?

It is in the garden that Kelsey learns so much about God how he prepares the soil of our souls, how he plants seeds of truth, how we only grow by grace. It is there that she is

happy harbinger of spring, the golden poppy! And

oh, the blueberries! Watching them transform from bud to green to fully ripe and sweet ever reminds her that we live in a kingdom that is already but not yet fully!

What's with the GROAN-ING?

In Romans 8, Paul talks about how all of creation is groaning, longing for Jesus to make all things new. How astonishing it is to realize that the present creation, even in all its current beauty, is not as beautiful as it one day will be! When Kelsey paints landscapes, she paints with a sanctified imagination, trying to portray "colors beyond the colors" of what these landscapes may look like when they, too, are fully restored. Paul goes on to say that the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. It is in these very landscapes both in wandering *in* them and in painting of them—that

> Kelsev feels connected with the Spirit. Both exploring and painting are for her deep groanings of prayer as she creates with her Creator."

When Kelsey is not painting, she is teaching art to students all over Sacramento County or exploring

new landscapes with her husband and six children.

You will get a chance to meet Kelsey Burke at our meet and greet reception later this month

THE MISSION BELL

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Children's & Youth Ministry

by Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

VBS



Vacation Bible School sign ups are happening now! All kids entering pre– K through 6th grade are invited to a week of diving into friendship with God

July 8-12 from
9:00 a.m. to 12:00
noon each day.
Scan the QR
code or contact
the church office
to register. The cost is \$20 per
child. The LAST day to register
is July 1!

Teens entering 7th-12th grade are welcome to volunteer VBS! Contact Michael Lombrano (michael@carmichaelpres.org) for details.

Children's Game Night

Join us for a night of fun and games at the Children's Ministry Game Night on June 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.! For just \$5 per child (with a maximum of \$10 per family), your little ones can enjoy a variety of exciting games and activities. Plus, dinner is included! From classic board games to lively group challenges, there's something for everyone. Hurry, as space is limited! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity for your children to so-

cialize, have fun, and make lasting memories. Register <u>HERE</u> or scan the QR code.



Summer Youth Group

As the dust of the school year settles, we want you to

know that our youth group will still meet every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We'll keep having fun activities and talks, just like always. Even though school schedules might be different, we'll still be here to hang out, learn about God, and have a good time together. So, no worries about schedules changing – we're sticking to our plan to keep our group going strong through the summer!

Upper 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! Starting June 10 and 11, Michael will be around in the youth room from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's a relaxed time for you to come and go as you please. Whether it be hang-(Continued on page 6)

... From Pastor Ivan ...

(Continued from page 2)

Representation - Representation and symbols matter. Pride flags are important to continue the message of love and affirmation. Churches, especially, have been places of harm for our queer siblings. Inclusion is more than just symbols; we must do the work to be truly welcoming.

Intersectionality - Keep Pride going! We must continue the conversations and actions that connect the ways systems of white supremacy and racism impact our lives. This means that when our Palestinian and Jewish siblings are suffering, we too must stand with them. This means when our Black and Brown siblings are suffering, we too must stand with them. Our oppressions are connected.

This list adapted from "6 Ways to Celebrate Pride Month" by the team at *Un-bound: The Intersections of Faith and Justice* https://justiceunbound.org/6-ways-to-celebrate-pride-month/

Pride Month

In June, CPC will join people around the world to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month.
The first Pride March was in

New York City in 1970 to honor the one-vear anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. On June 28, 1969 police began a series of raids at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar located in lower Manhattan. to harass its patrons. The patrons fought back, helping to ignite the LGBTO civil rights movement. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride

Day". In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations

include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Since 1970, people have continued to gather to march with pride, advocate for equal rights. remember those who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/ AIDS, and to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

At CPC Pride month is an opportunity for us to support and affirm all of God's children and extend a special welcome to LGBTQ+ people in and outside of our church's walls. Each Sunday in June the CPC Inclusion Task Force will be hosting a table during coffee hour in the DeVries Gathering Place with educational handouts and information posters celebrating the history and accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community.



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Library Corner

by Doris Beckert, Church Librarian

Want something to read for that quiet hour just before bedtime?

I recently read two books from the CPC Library that might fit the bill. They are written by two very different authors, but both had a strong Christian message and interesting characters.

• Just Once, by Karen Kingsbury. The latest in a long string of her novels, this historical fiction is a depar-



ture for Kingsbury. It is her first one that does not take place in current time. This is a love story set during the days of WWII. The inspiration is General William Donovan's statement that spies might be one way to help the U.S. and Allies win the war. Donovan created the Office of Strategic Services, which is the precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency. Civilians, among whom were 4,000 women, were the un-

sung heroes of the war. (new purchase, in fiction section)

 A Walk To Remember, by Nicholas Sparks. This was the author's third book, written in 1999. It is told in the voice of a seventeen -year-old boy in 1959, and it is a story of young love. Although Sparks is not known primarily as a Christian fiction writer, this book has all the elements of one. (in our large print collection)

Other suggestions are any book in the Mitford series by Jan Karon, or the Harmony series by Philip Gulley, or the Miss Julia series by Ann B. Ross.

PHILIP GULLEY

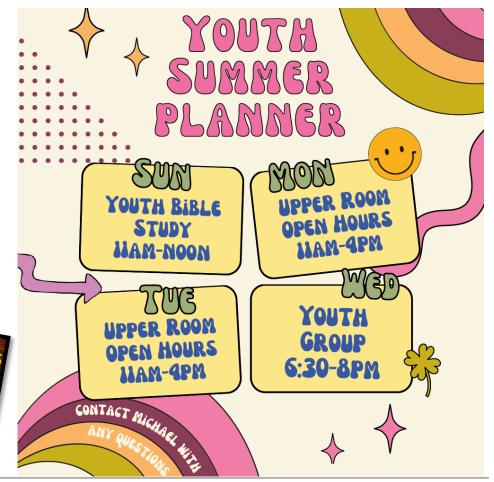
... Children & Youth ...

At Home

in Mitford

(Continued from page 4)

ing out, staying cool, taking a break from family if needed, or just enjoying a change of environment we hope to see you there.





Congratulations to these students in our CPC family who are graduating from high school this year:

Rowan Haight, Mira Loma High School

Beck Meehan, Mira Loma High School

Joshua Muilenburg, Christian Brothers High School

Lex Phillips, Natomas Pacific Pathways Prep High School

Madelyn Sevigny, El Camino High School

Danielle Tomlinson, El Camino High School

Sophia Crippin, granddaughter of Paul & Lynn Shultz, Central Wake High School, Raleigh, NC Bella Menchaca Gregorio, Lisa Benadom's great-niece, Liberty Ranch High School in Galt Timothy Olson, grandson of Janet Olson, Spring Lake High School, Spring Lake, MI Zander Trafton-Hancock, great grandson of Emily Moulton, Castro Valley High School

We also proudly recognize these college and higher education scholars and their academic accomplishments:

Christa Brewer, Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Georgia

Liam C. Brow, son of Bobby & Maria Brow, Bachelor of Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona

Daniel Dahlberg, son of Rodney & Monica Dahlberg, B.S. in Finance from University of Nevada, Reno

Stephen Gray, A.A. in Business from American River College

Emmit Hancock, grandson of Emily Moulton, Doctor of Education from University of San Francisco

Abigail Claire Holden, granddaughter of Betty & Keith Tronson, B.A. in History and Economics from

UC Santa Barbara

Ryan MacLean, Masters in Divinity and M.A. in Christian Education and Formation from Princeton Theological Seminary

Trevor Morris-Seekins, son of Craig Morris & Billie Morris-Seekins, J.D. from McGeorge Law School **Liberio Reynard Mercy Mukdani**, son of Herry & Engeline Mukdani, B.S. in Computer Science from California State University, Sacramento

Sarah Spivack, daughter of Jon & Trina Spivack, M.D. from UC Davis School of Medicine **Jake Tracy**, son of Sean & Susan Tracy, B.S. in Kinesiology from CSU Sacramento

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A Special Kind of Friendship

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

We all would like our lives to run smoothly, yet, oftentimes "bumps in the road" occur. These "bumps" may be the loss of a loved one, uncertain employment, divorce, debilitating illness, or other stresses and

strains that overwhelm us at times. People are precious, and when they hurt or suffer, they deserve the best care and support we can offer. That's why our congregation has Stephen Ministers. Their training, commitment, and service make them the best at helping

our pastors by providing ongoing care for people who need it.

Ideally, when we are hurting from life's challenges, close friends can come alongside and offer insight and support. In her book, Friendship of Women: The Hidden Tradition of the Bible, Joan Chittister has written some beautiful descriptions of friendship, many of which I think describe Stephen Ministry: "Friendship binds past and present and makes bearable the uncertainty of the future." [That is what Stephen Ministers do!] Joan writes how friends give "... the understanding, the empathy, the presence

they need in matters of the heart too important to be overlooked in the process of living." [Yes! Stephen Ministers offer this to those they are caring for.] "Real friends [like Stephen Ministers], are simply there for us, no



matter the pressure, no matter the pain. They are home for us when no other home is open."

Like a very close friend, Stephen Ministers cannot *extinguish* the pain that their care receivers feel. They can, however, help to ease it by the power of their ongoing presence, offering empathy, encouragement, support, and a sense that the other person is a worthwhile human being. Stephen Ministers bring the spiritual message: Don't give up; God is with you!

We now have several Stephen Ministers available who have trained for 50 hours to do this specialized caring ministry. They meet confidentially with their care receiver, one-to-one, for about an hour each week, for as long as the person has need of a Stephen Minister. They offer empathetic listening, nonjudgmental feedback, affirmation,

> and are an ongoing, caring presence to their care receiver.

A Yugoslavian proverb teaches, "Show me a friend who will weep with me. Those who will laugh with me I can find myself." [A Stephen Minister offers both emotions as appropriate.] If you or someone you know is in a place of life where you need

someone to listen and the hand of Christian love extended to vou, a Stephen Minister can play an important role in your life. 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.

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Marinerships

Companionship

"And they're off!" exclaimed the excited crowd at the 150th

Kentucky Derby. Actually it was the excited Compan-

Nancy and Dave Studer's house. As per Skipper Priscilla

man, all the ladies wore festive and elegant

hats

Mauer-

ionship crowd at Companionship mem-

bers donned festive hats and neckwear for their Kentucky Derby watch party.

(many donned with fresh and artificial flowers), and the men wore elegant or festive neckwear.

Before the race we had a business meeting and snacked on Kentucky Derby snacks. Dave Studer gave a brief summary of the Kentucky Derby history. The race is 1-1/4 miles long and the race is the oldest continuously running race in the country. And the fastest horse ever? Secretariat. We then completed our pre-game tasks. Our first contest was to predict how long the singing of "Mv Old Kentucky Home" would take. Most predicted about three minutes but the actual time was just over one minute 30 seconds. Before the race we placed our bets (25 cents each): Predict the 1st place win-

> ner, the 2nd place winner. and the horse that would come in last. In the closest Derby finish in more than a quarter century, Mystic Dan surged up the rail and won

the race by a nose! Second place was claimed by Sierra Leone, Forever Young was a very close third,

and Just a Touch came in last. Everyone agreed this was a very fun event!

If you'd like to visit our ship

please contact our Lookout Sharlene St. Clair.

Nautilus

In April, Nautilus weighed anchor from our usual CPC Parlor port to dock at the nearby River City Brewery brewpub for lunch and a meeting. Eleven attended, including Barbara and Wayne Reimers, Charlotte and Dick Frink, Margie and Jim Marshall, Carol Misquez, Louisette Asmar, Emily Moulton (our very own centenarian as of May 31), and our hosts for the meeting, Kathy and Peter Davalos. Our business meeting included approving CPC Planting Seeds of Faith auction gift certificates to Mateo's restaurant, and distribution of daffodils.

In place of a May meeting, Nautilus docked at two tables at the Planting Seeds of Faith auction. There were many prize drawing tickets fluttering about hopefully at both tables, but the only winners were CPC youth, who benefitted from all of the festivities.



Co. for their April meeting.

(Continued on page 10)

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An Amazing Auction!

Thank you to everyone who donated, bid, ate, helped, and otherwise supported the 20th Planting Seeds of Faith Luncheon and Auction on April 28! With your amazing help, we raised over \$21,000 for CPC's children's and youth programs.

Special thanks to our amazing auction leadership team: Julie Ueltzen, ElizaBeth Phillips, Michael Lombrano, Anne Parker, Christina Tomlinson, Monica Dahlberg, Lynette Ledesma, Pastor Keith and Jenny DeVries, and



great event that has become one of the most anticipated CPC events each year, and to Branden Rodgers and Jackson Catering & Events for donating a fantastic lunch.

We are also grateful for all of the volunteers who helped set up, serve, sell raffle tickets, make centerpieces, cashier,

Your support helps kids from CPC and throughout our community enjoy Vacation Bible School, summer camp, and mission experiences.

... More Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 9)

Skipjacks

Feliz Cinco de Mayo! Cantina Azteca was the place to be for a celebration of one of Mexico's fiesta days. Eleven Skipjacks gathered there a day early on May 4, exchanging the greeting "May the 4th be with you." Tacos, chile rellenos, beans and rice were among the dishes ordered. Muchas gracias to **Tony Perrou** for his photo and for collecting for the one combined dinner tab.

Despite the mariachi music from the speakers above us, we had a short business meeting. For her devotional Chaplain Bep van der Mik described images harkening back to Earth Day, and ended with the lyrics

to "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and a prayer for Phil & Jimmi Mishler. Purser Jan Olsen requested receipts for the Wednesday dinner expenses. (We cooked for 48 diners recently.) Doris Beckert took names of those wanting tickets

for the June 15 matinee of "42nd Street" at Music Circus. Skipper Carolee Roach announced Steve Harrison's memorial in Ft. Bragg in July. The next event will be a June wine tasting/picnic at a Yolo County winery, place and date to be announced.



Skipjacks celebrated Cinco de Mayo at Cantina Azteca Restaurant.

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

MISSION BELL DEADLINE

10th of each month for the following month's issue Submit articles to Karen Gray at karen@carmichaelpres.org or mail/drop off a hard copy in the church office.

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:

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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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5645 Marconi Avenue Carmichael, CA 95608-4498

TIME VALUE MAIL

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 4-5th 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 6th-12th grade can join Youth Bible study in the Upper Rooms.

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH diving into friendship with GOO for all kids preschool-entering 6th grade \$20 per child Scholarships available upon request Registration Deadline July 1

Sign up with the form on the back of this sheet or the QR code

Questions? Call 916-486-9081 or email michael@carmichaelpres.org

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024



Parent/Guardian Name	Day Phone
Parent/Guardian Name	Day Phone
E-mail	
Address	
Are parents/guardians members of Carmichael Presbyterian Ch	nurch? \(\begin{align*} \text{No} \\ \text{No} \end{align*}
Alternative Contact Name	Phone
Name of additional person authorized to pick up child/ren:	
Child's name	Grade Child will Enter Fall 2024:
Dietary Restrictions	
Any known allergies? If yes, please explain	
Anything else we should know about the child?	
T-shirt size (youth sizes): \square XS (4-6) \square S (6-8) \square M (10-3	12)
Child's name	Grade Child will Enter Fall 2024:
Dietary Restrictions	
Any known allergies? If yes, please explain	
Anything else we should know about the child?	
T-shirt size (youth sizes): \square XS (4-6) \square S (6-8) \square M (10-	12) L (14-16) XL (Adult S) Other

Presbyterian Church to make such arrangements as s/he considers necessary for my child/ren to receive medical or hospital care, including necessary transportation. Under such circumstances, I further authorize the physician named below to undertake such care and treatment of my child/ren, as they consider necessary. In the event said physician is not available at the time, I authorize such care and treatment to be performed by a licensed physician or surgeon.

Print Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature
Physician Name	Physician Phone