



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2024/January 2025

Volume LXIV Number 11

Paving the Way to Welcome All

by Karen Orlando

In 1923 almost ninety people attended Carmichael Community Church at the grammar school on Sutter Ave. The little fledgling church utilized all four rooms of the

school to capacity. So much that the church



Carmichael Community Church's first capital campaign raised funds to build a permanent place of worship.

members were starting to imagine the reality of building their own permanent place of worship. Within a year, \$2,500 was in the building fund. Church members went door to door canvassing the com-
(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue:

From Pastor Keith	2
From Pastor Ivan	4
Spread Christmas Cheer	5
Advent Gathering Madrigal Concert	5
Imagining God's Future	6
Christmas Pageant	7
Ca. Marathon Road Closures	7
Children & Youth Ministry	8
Art Show	9
Library Corner	10
Caregiver Relief Workshop	10
God is Our Refuge	11
Presbyterian Women	12
Community Advent Event	13
Annual Meeting	14
In Our Church Family	14
Wanted: Vegetable Gardener	15
Sanctuary Flowers for 2025	16
Scuttlebutt	17

Christmas Eve at CPC

FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
5:00 p.m.

Children help fill the Bethlehem village with nativity characters while we hear the Christmas story through carols, Scripture, and music from the Sanctuary Choir. All children receive a special gift!

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
11:00 p.m.

Celebrate Christmas with the Lord's Supper, reading the Christmas Story, and special music from Hannah Ludwig, mezzo-soprano and Zorana Randjelovic-Flores, piano.

All services will be livestreamed at
<https://www.youtube.com/@carmichaelpres>



From Pastor Keith L. DeVries:

“Reflections Upon an Extended Stay”

On November 5, **Norman Dean Shaver**, Jenny’s dad, entered the Church Triumphant at the age of 98. As many of you know, Dean/Dad has been living with us for the past four years. When he first arrived, he was somewhat independent, but within twelve months it became clear that he required more assistance. So, we invited a parade of caregivers, VA doctors and nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and other health care professionals associated with the VA healthcare system into our home and lives to partner with us in Dad’s care. *We are truly thankful!*

Dad was easy to have around 24/7 these past four years and he seldom complained, but his living with us did change how we navigated our lives both professionally and personally as every decision we made took Dad’s situation into account as well. Jenny and I became partners and tag team caregivers, ad-

justing our schedules at work and at home so one of us or a caregiver was always present with dad. Through it all, dad was an easy roommate to have around, as he mostly enjoyed our menu choices, as

“One of my favorite times of each day was helping Dad get ready for bed. He would always say to us as part of his nightly ritual, “Sweet dreams,” and of course we would say the same to him.”

long as we kept to his set routine: instant oatmeal with blueberries or strawberries, two eggs scrambled hard, coffee and juice for breakfast; and clam chowder or soup and juice for lunch. Dinner was whatever we were having and always included ice cream. One of my favorite times of each day was helping Dad get ready for bed. He

would always say to us as part of his nightly ritual, “Sweet dreams,” and of course we would say the same to him. Thank you, Dad, for your service as a WWII veteran, for your hard work and dedication to your family, and for being a good housemate these past four years. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a home that you could call your own in the twilight years of your life. We love you, Dad, and know that you are now resting in the loving embrace of our Lord.

As we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we once again do so preparing for and celebrating the gift of God’s coming, the gift of God’s love incarnate, born in a manger. And even though our family celebrates these sea-

sons without dad’s physical presence, we gratefully and joyfully bear witness to the good news of resurrection and Christ’s coming again.

May hope, peace, joy, and love surround all of you this Advent and Christmas season and into the new year,

Pastor Keith

... Paving the Way ...

(Continued from page 1)

munity during that first ever capital campaign. By 1927 a 28-foot by 50-foot church was built at 5645 Marconi Ave on donated land. Thus began a long history of successful capital campaigns for Carmichael Presbyterian Church.

This November the church held its annual stewardship campaign.

As we look into the new year, we anticipate a capital campaign raising funds to completely renovate the parking lot, including solar panels that will supply close to 65% of our energy needs. The function of the annual stewardship process is to sustain the church's operating budget for the following fiscal year. Stewardship is an ongoing life process in the church. This differs from a capital campaign which asks members and other donors to make a commitment of sacrificial giving over a specific time period, with the results generally being capital improvements.

Over the last thirty years, CPC has held six capital campaigns. This equates to over eight million dollars that helped transform and update

As we move into 2025 you will hear more information on how funding works, details and history of how the parking lot project has developed,

including an anticipated construction timeline. You might even be asked to volunteer your time and talents for the campaign team. Just as those ninety members in 1923 imagined the possibilities for ministry in their own church building, we con-



An artist's rendering of what our new parking lot might look like, including solar panels and an accessible ramp from the upper parking lot to the lower area.

our campus. These improvements include the DeVries Gathering Place, McMillen Hall, the Food Closet, the Columbarium, a commercial kitchen, a new music center, new administrative offices, a new organ, a new piano and choir seating, the Library, closed circuit tv, remodeled restrooms with showers, and the list goes on and on. Just as our annual stewardship commitment relies on members to help keep the annual budget going, the care and sustainability of our campus faithfully puts its trust again in its members and in the capital campaign process.

tinue to imagine our future ministry and devotedly move forward paving the way to welcome all.

THE MISSION BELL

(USP 593-640)

Published Monthly by
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

5645 Marconi Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Carmichael, CA 95608

Postmaster send address
changes to:

Mission Bell
5645 Marconi Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608

Pastor Ivan N. Herman Writes:

“The Scandalous Particularity of Incarnation”

What would be good news for you today?

Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation of God in Jesus of Nazareth, a very particular person in a particular time and place. The Incarnation is unique to Christianity in that this

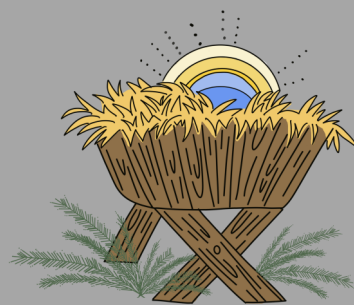
person is not half-God and half-human, but fully God and fully human. It is scandalous to believe the Creator of all that has been, is, and ever will be poured completely into this one man. If we want to know who God is, we look to

the example of Jesus, not because Jesus is like God, but that God is like Jesus.

Richard Rohr, in his 2014 book *Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi* says, “Theologians call the principle of concrete-to-universal knowing ‘the scandal of particularity.’ John Duns Scotus asserted that God only created particulars and individuals, a quality he named “thisness” (*haecceity*).

Thisness grounds the principle of incarnation in the concrete and the specific. You can’t really love universals. It’s hard to love concepts, forces, or ideas.”

And it is hard to feel love from the idea of God. Jesus is



“Jesus is how the love of God is revealed to us. God loves you, each of you, every one of you, and all of you.”

how the love of God is revealed to us. God loves you, each of you, every one of you, and all of you.

That scandalous particularity also means that the good news of Jesus isn’t just good news for whole of creation, but that it is good news for you in your life today. Jesus didn’t say he came to be our conductor who punches our ticket to heaven;

he said he came to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of jubilee. That means the incarnation of Jesus is good news for us in the problems and challenges of our real, every-day lives.

Rachel Held Evans in her book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* reminds us that “Jesus invites us into a story that is bigger than ourselves, bigger than our culture, bigger even than our imaginations, and yet we get to tell that story with the scandalous particularity of our particular moment and place in time. We are storytelling creatures because we are fashioned in the image of a storytelling God.”

I hope this year that you hear the Christmas story not just as something that happened 2000 years ago, but as a story of God’s love born in you. That is good news, indeed!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

Spread Christmas Cheer: Donate to the Christmas Gift Ministry

by Lilly Janik

This holiday season, our church community is coming together to share the true spirit of Christmas by helping local families. We invite you to be part of something special by supporting our Christmas Gift Ministry, which provides gift cards to families facing challenges during the holiday season!

For many families in our area, the holidays can feel



overwhelming. With your generous donation, we can provide gift cards for grocery stores, department stores, and other essential retailers, giving these families the means to purchase what they need most—whether it's a special meal or a gift for their loved ones or themselves.

Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a tangible difference in the lives of

those who need it most. It's a simple yet powerful way to show love and kindness to our neighbors.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate in Person:** We will have a table in the DeVries Gathering Place to receive donations after church services. Look for the Christmas tree with gift cards on it!
- **Online:** Visit our church website to make a secure online donation.
- **Cash or Check:** Drop off your donation at the church office or during Sunday services.
- **Spread the Word:** Encourage your friends and family to join the effort!

Let's come together and make this Christmas a little brighter for those in need. Your gift can provide hope, joy, and a reminder that we are all part of a caring community. Thank you for your generosity and support!

For more information or to donate, please contact the church office or visit our website.

Together, we can make this Christmas season one of love and giving!



CPC Presbyterian Women present

Advent Gathering

Friday, December 6
at 12:00 noon

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a

FREE Concert

of seasonal music and carols from the

Madrigal Choir

from

El Camino High School Choir

under the direction of Tessa Kelly

All are welcome! Bring your Friends!

Last year the choir did a great job despite having limited rehearsal time. They had rehearsals after school or during lunch as time permitted to be ready to sing for us. We are fortunate to have the El Camino Madrigal Choir grace us with their voices with more songs this year.

Imagining God's Future in Our Community

2025 Stewardship Campaign

by Patty Kepner

Carmichael Presbyterian Church (CPC) is a community of faith with a rich history of shared faith, traditions, hopes, and dreams. For over 100 years our congregation has supported God's work in this community and joyously provided for the many ministries of CPC through generous stewardship. Our century-long journey together is summed up in our current mission statement:

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.

Throughout November, the Stewardship Committee highlighted the many ministries that live out this mission today. We heard from **Anne Parker** and **Rebecca Cameron** during worship about ways our church lives out this statement. They include the Inclusion Task Force, youth group, Food Closet, SOS, music programs, Women's Retreat, Bible studies, and our Sunday worship services – just to name a few. We are

fortunate to have these meaningful ways to guide and nurture our congregation and community.

Imagining GOD'S FUTURE in our COMMUNITY

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



As we set our sights on the future and imagine the possibilities for CPC in 2025 and beyond, it's your generous stewardship that ensures CPC can continue to foster fellowship and provide vital ministries for both our church family and the broader community. Stewardship is, at its essence, the act of faithfully managing the gifts God has entrusted to us. Through your support, CPC proudly embodies the spirit of good stewardship.

A major milestone in our 2025 Stewardship Campaign was Commitment Sunday, celebrated on November 24, 2024. On that day, we pledged

our financial resources with joy and gratitude to sustain the church and its ministries in the coming year. We did so with grateful hearts for the blessings that God has given each of us and our congregation.

To those who have already submitted their 2025 pledge, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support in sustaining the diverse ministries of CPC. For those who have not yet had a

chance to complete their pledge, ***it's never too late!*** You can easily complete your pledge online at www.carmichaelpres.org/give/ or complete a paper pledge card and mail it to the church office. If you prefer, you can reach out to **Paul Shultz**, CPC's Financial Administrator, at 916-486-9081, extension 205, or via email at paul@carmichaelpres.org, and he will be more than happy to assist you with your 2025 pledge. It's important to remember that every contribution makes a difference. We all play a role in being faithful stewards of CPC.

A special thank you to the
(Continued on page 7)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
10:00 A.M.



Relive the Christmas story (with a few twists) as the children and youth of CPC present a pageant as part of Sunday morning worship. Sing along with familiar hymns of the season and share the joy of Jesus' birth.

Beware of CIM Delays December 8



The California International Marathon will run on Sunday, December 8, 2024, causing some intersections near the church to be closed. The race starts at 7:00 a.m. near Folsom Dam and travels Oak Avenue, Fair Oaks Blvd, and J Street to the Capitol. Intersections will be closed only while the race comes through, but be prepared, if necessary, to leave home early and avoid the racecourse on your way to church. For a complete list of road closures and times, go to <https://runsra.org/california-international-marathon/course-information/>

... Imagining God's Future ...

(Continued from page 6)

dedicated members of the 2025 Stewardship Committee. Each individual offered creative ideas and valuable time to ensure the success of this year's campaign. We are especially grateful to **Allison Cagley**, the committee chair, for her leadership. Thanks also go to **Laura Janik**, **Tim Farley**, **Lynette Ledesma**, and **Patty Kepner** for their significant contributions to the campaign. **Pastor Keith** offered guidance, **Paul Shultz** provided financial expertise, and **Karen Gray** and **Julie Ueltzen** gave invaluable support to make everything possible.

With your continued financial stewardship support for 2025, we can devote our energy to living out our mission through our ministry efforts and envision a future filled with hope and imagination for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We extend our gratitude to each one of you for your faithful and generous support as we continue to *Imagine God's Future in our Community*.

MISSION BELL
DEADLINE

January 10, 2025

for the

February 2025 edition

(Note: There will not be a separate January newsletter)

Submit articles to Karen Gray at karen@carmichaelpres.org or mail/drop off a hard copy in the church office.

Children & Youth Ministry Happenings

by Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

December:

- **Community Advent Event:** On Saturday, December 7 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. CPC is hosting a Community Advent Event. This is an open house type of event where you can arrive whenever and leave when you want! We will have several stations to help us celebrate the season such as cookie decorating, crafts, homemade potpourri, Christmas karaoke, storytelling, and much more. We will be gathering in McMillen Hall and would love to see you and your family there. This is also a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to attend!
- **Christmas Pageant:** On December 15, our children and youth will star in the CPC Christmas Pageant during Sunday morning worship. This is the first time we have put on the pageant since 2019! We would love to see you in person or online to celebrate the Good News with us!
- **Last Youth Group of the Year:** On Wednesday, December 18, the youth will have their last meeting of 2024— a Christmas party!

Be sure to wear your ugliest Christmas sweater! The Youth Group will meet again on January 8, 2025.

- **New Children and Youth Waiver:** The QR code will take you to our new children and youth waiver and release. This covers your student for 2025. Please fill this out so that your students can join us for the groups and events in the coming year!



the counter when they get there.

- **Substitutes:** Children's ministry is looking for substitute teachers for Sunday mornings. We don't want our students to be left out if Michael or any of our Marys or Pauls are out. If you are a CPC member and would be interested in being a Sunday School substitute or just want more information, please contact **Michael Lombrano** at mi-chael@carmichaelpres.org or 916-486-9081.

January

- **Youth Group** is back on Wednesday, January 8 at our normal time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **Children's Game Night:** On January 24, the children will be in McMillen Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for fun and games. Registration is not required; however, please let **Michael Lombrano** know if you are planning to drop your child off.
- **Youth Mini-golf:** On Saturday January 25, Michael and the youth will meet at Scandia for miniature golf at 10:00 a.m. (when they open). The cost is \$16 per student, and they will pay at

Year End Gifts



Any contributions that you would like included on your 2024 giving statement must be brought to the church office by Monday, December 30 or post-marked/electronically posted by Tuesday, December 31. If you have not completed your 2024 pledge, or can make an additional gift, please do so by December 31. If you have any questions, please contact **Paul Shultz**, Financial Administrator at 916-486-9081 or paul@carmichaelpres.org.

“Thankful For” Youth Art Show

The members of CPC’s Art Committee are delighted to collaborate with our Children’s and Youth Director **Michael Lombrano** and our middle and high school youth. The “Thankful For” art show features photographs and other works by Michael and several of our young artists. Their



Several of CPC’s youth created art for the “Thankful For” art show in the DeVries Gathering Place.

Photo by Lori Keeney

art will be on exhibit through the holidays until January 7, 2025.

For this show, the youth

used Psalm 107:1 to guide their artistic choices. “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.” We hope you enjoy the show and that you will come to the Artists’ Reception on Saturday, December 14

from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the DeVries Gathering Place. Spend some time with these artists and find out more about the inspiration behind their creations.

We are so thankful for our youth as they share their gifts. We are thankful for our pastors, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers and so many others in our congregation who have built a legacy of faith, serving children and their families in the Carmichael community for more than a century.

Each year as we celebrate Thanksgiving, then Advent and Christmas, we are reminded to give thanks and count our blessings. We give thanks for the beauty of this season. For God’s gift of his son. A babe in a manger. Our savior, our king. A gift of love and amazing grace. Emmanuel, God with us.

WINTER CPC CHILDREN & YOUTH EVENTS

DEC:

7TH - COMMUNITY ADVENT EVENT

15TH - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

18TH - YOUTH GROUP XMAS PARTY

JAN:

24TH - CHILDREN’S GAME NIGHT

25TH - YOUTH MINIGOLF

FEB:

14TH - CHILDREN’S MOVIE NIGHT*
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

17TH - YOUTH GROUP ROCKCLIMBING



Library Corner: Christmas Is Coming!

by Doris Beckert, CPC Librarian

Your church library has many books about Advent and Christmas. Here's just a short sample:

- *Watch For the Light: readings for Advent and Christmas.* (394 Wat) Good source of devotionals to choose for your committee or club meeting.
- *Advent for Everyone,* by N.T. Wright (394 Wri)



Daily devotionals, with questions at end of each one for reflection or discussion.

- *Putting God Back in the Holidays,* by Bill & Penny Thrasher (394.261) Section 5 is on Christmas, but the book includes other holidays too.
- *The Very First Christmas,* by Paul Maier. (Easy Mai) Just one of many seasonal books in the Children's section that can be read

to children or that non-readers can enjoy by looking at the pictures.



There are some lost "sheep" out there that this

shepherdess needs to have back home. No questions asked. There may be others. Please search your shelves.

- *Our Sanctuary Windows* (CPC)
- *Stories of Faith* (CPC)
- *The Shack,* by William Young (Fiction)
- *Convictions,* by Marcus Borg

Family Caregiver Relief Day

A Day of Relief, Support, and Recognition

What to Expect?

Highlights include:

- Pampering & Relaxation: Stress-relieving activities like mini-massages, guided relaxation, and self-care tips.
- Mini Informational Sessions: Practical tools and resources to manage caregiving stresses.
- Community & Networking: Connect with healthcare professionals, advocacy organizations, and fellow caregivers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Relax & Recharge: Participate in activities to help you unwind and relieve stress.
- Resource Sharing: Learn about financial assistance, respite care, and other caregiving support services.
- Support & Recognition: Celebrate caregivers' contributions and connect with others who understand the journey.
- Alzheimer's Care Management Tool: Discover practical tips for caregiving with Alzheimer's through a new mini-series.

SAVE THE DATE

Family Caregiver Relief Day

Date: January 25th

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

SCAN AND REGISTER



Join us for an afternoon of appreciation, relaxation, and valuable resources to support our caregivers.



God is Our Refuge in Times of Change

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

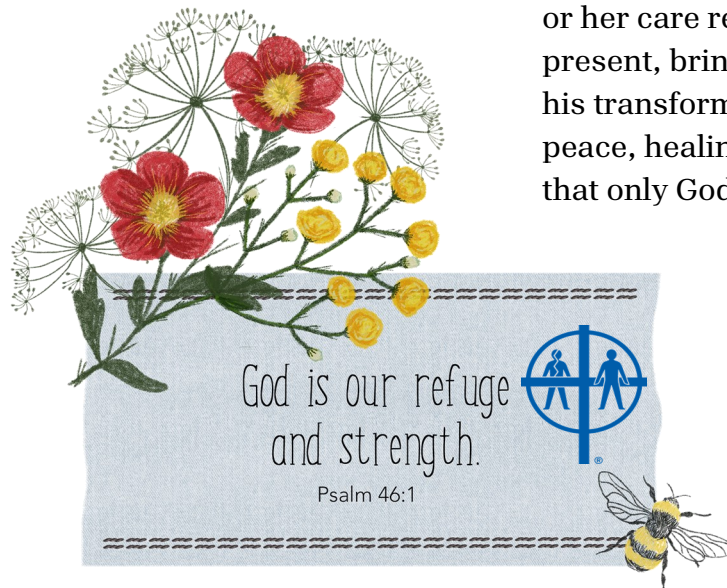
-Psalm 46:1

December-January..... a time of new birth. In December, of course, we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with the new covenant, life everlasting that this brings us. And January is the beginning of the New Year—another opportunity for new activities, growth, and relationships.

As we journey through life, we pass through many seasons and many changes. This season may be one that is joyful and celebratory for you, or it may be difficult because of the loss of a loved one, worries about income, experiencing difficult family relationships, caring for loved ones who are experiencing declining health, or experiencing health problems ourselves. Changes in our circumstances or expectations may cause us severe stress, feelings of isolation, and/or anxiety, which the holiday season may exacerbate.

However, you are not alone! Stephen Ministry is one way our church reaches out to people who are hurting. Stephen Ministers are trained to offer distinctively Christian

care as people learn to cope with the stresses and changes that are happening in their lives.



Dinah Miria Mulock Craik (1866) wrote, “Oh, the comfort --the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person-- having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away. . . .”

Stephen Ministers have been trained to listen in just such a way as Ms. Craik describes. They provide confidential, nonjudgmental, and high-quality Christian care, empathy, support, encouragement, and a sounding-board

when needed, to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge. When a Stephen Minister meets one-to-one with his or her care receiver, Jesus is present, bringing the power of his transforming love, and the peace, healing, and comfort that only God can give. Ste-

phen Ministers help us remember that God promises to always love us, no matter what! In the midst of life’s struggles, God’s love carries

us. Even though we don’t know what will happen tomorrow, we can know that God will be with us and God’s love for us will remain unchanged, lasting forever.

If you are experiencing challenging changes or know someone who has, and would like to learn more about how to receive care from a Stephen Minister for yourself or someone you know, please call the confidential line (916-486-0604), or contact one of the pastors or Stephen Leaders for more information: **Len Tozier, Misty Dunn, Mary Thomas, or John Wallace.**

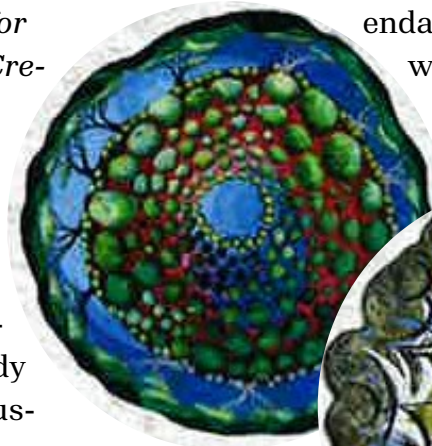
PW Bible Study Continues

by Lisa Benadom

Author Patricia K. Tull has provided us with much to ponder in this year's Bible study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. In Lessons 1, 2, and 3 we have reflected on Environmental Justice, Land Justice, and Food Justice. In December we will study Lesson 4: "Water Justice" and in January our Lesson 5 will be "Air Quality." What does Scripture teach us about these precious resources? In Lesson 4 we will reflect on how water's sacred standing has been highlighted among humans since ancient times. The books of Genesis and Exodus repeatedly exemplify both the desirability and the dangers of water. Today the fight for clean, abundant water has become fiercer as water is taken for granted and treated like a commodity by some, and as climate change has intensified both drought and flooding worldwide.

In January we will turn to Lesson 5: "Air Quality." From the outset of Scripture's story of life, air has been associated with God, who breathes life

into every human and animal. It is, therefore, critical that we examine how pollution of the air we breathe particularly endangers the world's youngest and oldest citizens.



Lesson Four in the PW Horizons Study explores "Water Justice" and Lesson 5 explores "Air Quality."



Hopefully your interest has been piqued. There are many ways to participate in PW:

1. Pastor-led Bible study is held via Zoom the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. ALL are invited. Contact **Karen Gray** in the church office to receive the Zoom link.
2. PW Circles meet on the third Thursday of the month for Bible study, prayer, mission, fellowship, and to nurture our faith. Naomi Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. Contact **Bonnie Hard**. Mary Martha Circle meets at 1:00 p.m.

Contact **Lisa Benadom** or **Kathy Daigle**. Both circles meet in the DeVries Gathering Place and would be happy to have you join them.

3. Dorcas Circle is our World Service Sewing Circle. For more information about this opportunity to serve, contact **Carolyn McGregor** at sa-brina53@earthlink.net. Each month our Bible study features extraordinary quilter's art. At CPC we have a tradition in this cherished art form and we are so grateful to Dorcas Circle for their work.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of our Bible study, please contact **Terry Sakuda** at terry.sakuda@yahoo.com.

The purpose of PW is to: 1. Nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; 2. Support mission and service; 3. Work for justice and peace; 4. Build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian church and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. We remain firmly committed to our purpose. Please consider joining us!

Community Advent Event

Open House Style
Sat, Dec 7th
3-5 pm
McMissen Hall
Cost: FREE

- Christmas Ornament Crafts
- Story Time
- Photo Booth
- Cookie Decorating
- Making Potpourri Bags
- Christmas Karaoke
- Cocoa, Cider, Coffee



CARMICHAEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, February 2

immediately following worship

Find out more about what happens at CPC
on and beyond Sundays.

Agenda Items Will Include:

- reviewing the budget for 2025
- electing elders, deacons, and nominating committee members
- receiving the 2024 annual report
- approving Terms of Call for Pastor Keith and Pastor Ivan.

Watch for details coming soon!

A Master Singers Christmas

You are invited to “A Master Singers Christmas” presented by Sacramento Master Singers in December. Revel in the beauty of the holiday season beginning with a candlelight processional and featuring both new and familiar Christmas tunes and carols.

Look for CPC’s Music Director **Keith Atwater** in the bass/baritone section and or-



ganist **Heidi van Regenmorter** accompanying this impressive group.

You’ll hear Buxtehude’s Baroque era *Das Neuegeborene Kindelein* with harpsichord and string quartet,

Carol of the Bells as sung by Pentatonix, and much more.

Go to <https://www.mastersingers.org/> for concert schedules, tickets, and details.

In Our Church Family



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

- ✝ **Rae-Nani Stokes** and family on the loss of her stepmother, **Kay**
- ✝ the family of **Elaine Vargo**, who passed away recently.
- ✝ **Keith and Jenny DeVries** on the loss of Jenny’s father, **Dean Shaver**, on November 5.
- ✝ the family of **Elaine Rietz**, Pastors’ Secretary at CPC from 1986-2000, who passed away on October 24.

Help Us Keep in Touch!



If you’ve moved or changed your phone number or email (or even changed your preferred contact information), be sure to let the church office know! Help us keep you up to date and connected. Just contact **Julie Ueltzen**, Church Secretary at 916-486-9081 or carmichaelpres@gmail.com

Share Your Faith Story



Have you had a God encounter or experience? How has God worked in your life and increased your faith? Share your faith story with your church family! Contact **Kathy Phillips** at jphil-lipsk@sbcglobal.net to arrange a time to share.

You can share during Sunday worship, write something for someone else to read, or come up with a new way to share your story.

Wanted: Vegetable Gardener

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for someone with a green thumb to manage the CPC Community Garden in 2025.

Interested? Have questions?
Call or text Tim Farley



Planning a Meeting or Event?



As a new year begins, the Carmichael Presbyterian Church campus gets busier and busier. Are you planning a meeting or event in the coming months? Remember to reserve your space early! It's easy!

You can stop by the church office during regular office hours and talk with **Karen Gray** or **Julie Ueltzen**, OR call the church office at 916-486-9081, OR email karen@carmichaelpres.org or

carmichaelpres@gmail.com.

We'll need to know:

- ◆ the date and time for your meeting (and what time you plan to arrive)
- ◆ a contact name and phone number or email
- ◆ where you would like to meet (if you have a preference)
- ◆ any special set-up or equipment needs

There are some restrictions on outside groups using CPC facilities. Karen or Julie can provide details and additional information as needed.

Donate Sanctuary Flowers for 2025



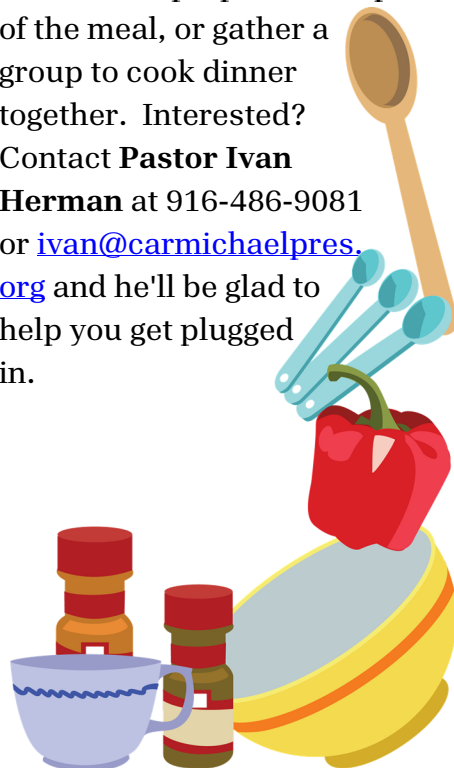
You can donate flowers to adorn our Sanctuary during worship on Sundays! The cost is \$50 for one bouquet or \$100 for both bouquets. It's easy to do: go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BA4AE29A5FE3-53059904-sanctuary> to choose an open date at least one week in advance. Fill in the information and submit your payment to CPC with "flowers" in the memo line. Or, call the church office and we'll help you sign up over the phone.

This is a meaningful way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. You may keep the flowers after worship or have our Deacons deliver them to someone in need of a bit of cheer.

Wednesday Dinner

Wednesday Dinners will take a holiday break on December 25 and January 1. Everyone is invited to enjoy a meal and conversation together on other Wednesday evenings in McMillen Hall starting at 6:00p.m. On the menu: \$5 dinner, \$3 salad bar, \$1 per slice pizza, \$20 max per family. Childcare is available from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Group for grades 6-12 meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We also need volunteers to help with tasks including set up, clean up, making pizzas, and preparing meals. Cooks can choose the menu and are reimbursed for food expenses. You can prepare all or part of the meal, or gather a group to cook dinner together. Interested? Contact **Pastor Ivan Herman** at 916-486-9081 or ivan@carmichaelpres.org and he'll be glad to help you get plugged in.



Follow CPC on Social Media



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/carmichaelpres>

OR

Join our Facebook Group
"Friends of Carmichael
Presbyterian Church"



Instagram

[@carmichaelpresbyterian](https://www.instagram.com/carmichaelpresbyterian)



And be sure to
check out our
website

www.carmichaelpres.org

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Marinerships

Companionship

On Saturday, November 2, the Companionship met in the DeVries Gathering Place for a delicious brunch followed by our business meeting. The tables were covered with placemats and napkins with a pattern of beautiful fall leaves and lovely orange flowers. Our meal consisted of two delicious breakfast casseroles, a lovely fresh fruit salad, and yummy muffins. With coffee, tea, and orange juice we were ready for business.

Our task was not a difficult one: it was fun to consider all the ideas for next year's events. Nearly everyone was able to choose one or two events to co-sponsor, and we saved some events for our members who could not attend. 2025 will be a very busy and happy year for all!

If you'd like to visit our ship, please contact our Lookout **Sharlene St. Clair**.

Skipjacks

"Going once, going twice... Sold!"

Carolyn Biggers last month gave **Pastor Keith** cause to fear for his status as Primo Auctioneer. She urged Skipjacks to bid even higher than planned on beautifully

wrapped "Secret Treasures." The purpose of the auction was to raise funds for several "cargo" projects planned for next year. These were not the usual "white elephants" of the past. Members rummaged in closets and cabinets to find something that they could part with but that someone else might like. High bidder **Glenda Perrou** won a cobalt blue vase, and later a book, dish, and angel wall hangings. Upon opening her box, **Margo Scandella** remarked "Wait... There's more, and more!"

Jimmi Mishler admired her



Carolyn Biggers served as auctioneer for the Skipjacks' November "Secret Treasures" meeting.

beaded basket with its intricate design. **Jan Olsen** said about her item, "I don't know what it is, but I like it." It was a rain chain of mini buckets with a

frog on the top. Both of **Debbie Cameron's** gifts were wrapped in Christmas paper and ribbon and were art prints. The most unusual item was an offer to do Jan's genealogy.

All of this was preceded by a business meeting in which we voted in next year's slate of officers. They are: Skippers **Tony & Glenda Perrou**; First Mate **Debbie Cameron**; Purser **Jan Olsen**; Log Keeper **Doris Beckert**; Chaplain **Bette Johnson**; Cargo **Terry Sakuda**; Signal Master **Margo Scandella**; Care & Share **Jimmi Mishler**.

Bep van der Mik gave a thoughtful devotional about Thanksgiving and on the hymn "Come Ye Thankful People Come" which we read aloud in unison.

Pattie Shaw was "inducted" into the membership, and **Doris Beckert** read her bio from Pattie's book, which is in the church library. We are happy to welcome this talented lady.

Prayers were raised for **Dick & Carole Jacobi**, **Jack Brown**, and **Sandi Lindley** who is awaiting knee replacement surgery. We were happy to see **Judy Harrison** back

(Continued on page 18)

Sundays @ CPC

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

A blend of traditional and contemporary music styles 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 classes.

Preschool through 2nd grade students experience Bible stories through Godly Play. Kids in 3rd-5th grade learn together using lectionary-based Whirl curriculum.

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available throughout the morning.



Coffee Fellowship

Waterfall Singers & Youth Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Visit and enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie while you browse the Art Exhibit in the Gathering Place or chat with friends old and new following worship.

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade can join CPC’s children’s choir, Waterfall Singers.

Youth in 6th through 12th grade are encouraged to come to the Upper Rooms (youth rooms) for Bible study.



... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 17)
after a long absence.

Coffee, cookies, and pumpkin pie were on hand throughout the afternoon.

Our December gathering will be Christmas linner at Brookfield’s in Rancho Cordova on Saturday, December 7 at 2:30. You read that right. It’s called “linner” - between lunch and dinner. Year-long Secret Pals will finally be revealed with a humorous card, and then names will be drawn for next year.

Our CPC Staff

The Rev. Keith L. DeVries
The Rev. Ivan N. Herman
Keith Atwater, Music 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
Monique Schubert,
 Food Closet Operations
 Manager
Heidi van Regenmorter,
 Organist
Rikki Pratt,
 Mission Bells Director
Gabe Bisho, Pianist
Will Condrey, Drummer
Michael Schwab, Guitarist
Merlyn Van Regenmorter,
 Bassist
Noor Bitar, Michael Gray,
Bruce MacLean,
Steve Parker, Kiyo Romais,
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:

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

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





**5645 Marconi Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608-4498**

TIME VALUE MAIL

Periodicals Postage
Paid at
CARMICHAEL CA
95608