



# THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2024

Volume LXIV Number 10

## Imagining God's Future in Our Community 2025 Stewardship Campaign

by Patty Kepner

As we imagine what God's future holds for the CPC community, we envision a church that reflects Christ's love and mission. By following our core values—welcoming all, nurturing relationships, growing in faith together, and serving our community and

the world—we can provide a place where everyone is embraced and supported in their walk with God.



Stewardship is central to this vision, God's gifts to us—our time, talents, and financial resources—enable our church to thrive. Through faith-

ful stewardship and generous giving, we empower our community to fulfill God's mission and build a brighter future together.

Let's explore how each part of our mission statement guides us toward a future filled with hope supported by the good stewards of CPC.

**Welcome All: Hospitality and inclusion in our church reflect**

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Spreading Joy this Christmas: Christmas Gift Ministry Needs Your Help

by Deb Sweetman

The holiday season is a time of warmth, love, and sharing, and there's no better way to celebrate than by giving back to those in need.

At our beloved church, we are excited to



launch this year's Christmas Gift Ministry, a cherished tradition that embodies the

*(Continued on page 3)*

From Pastor Keith L. DeVries:

# “Imagining God’s Future in Our Community”

I know it is sometimes hard to imagine God’s good future when we are surrounded by chaos and crisis daily. There is war in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan, among others; politics and politicians are at their worst as we approach a national election; gun violence is the new normal; natural disasters devastate people’s lives; personal loss and grief can be paralyzing; and the church— our church— seems to be in constant change. We yearn for days gone by. But imagining God’s future is not about looking through the nostalgic lens of yesterday, it is about being open to God’s transformative possibilities today and tomorrow.

- Five years ago, I don’t think I could have imagined what our worship service would look like, but along came a pandemic and God’s people at CPC were forced to think differently about worship and music, resulting in our embracing live streaming, a blended style of worship on Sunday mornings and the additions of gifted new musicians who joined our staff.

- Five years ago, I don’t think I could have imagined CPC embracing our calling to welcome all, focusing on becoming a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, but today it has become a priority for our Inclusion Task Force and our minis-

*“ ... imagining God’s future is not about looking through the nostalgic lens of yesterday, it is about being open to God’s transformative possibilities today and tomorrow.”*

try of welcome.

- Five years ago, I don’t think I could have imagined the transformation of our Food Closet ministry after 50+ years, but as leadership met the challenge of being flexible while introducing new ways of serving food to those in greatest need in our community.
- Five years ago, I would not, could not, have imagined that financially we would be able to sustain current levels of mission

and ministry while worship attendance decreases, our demographic ages, and how people “do church,” changes, but we are still here “being church” in Carmichael.

The constants throughout these past five years, and in fact, for the past 100+ years, have been the blessings of God’s Holy Spirit that blows mightily in our midst, and your amazing generosity and faithful stewardship. During worship on November 24, we will dedicate our financial pledges which support current staffing levels, and CPC’s mission, ministry and programs for

2025. And while we acknowledge that resources are limited, we also affirm that you have again and again met the challenges of faithful stewardship, bringing before God our very best. So, let us meet this challenge together as we imagine God’s future for 2025 and beyond, continuing to be God’s faithful people planted in this community, who bear witness to the light of God’s love in all that we do. May the blessings of peace abound,

*Pastor Keith*

# ... Christmas Gift Ministry ...

(Continued from page 1)

true spirit of Christmas. We have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families from local schools, Family Promise, and our community, and we need your support to make it happen.

The Christmas Gift Ministry has been a symbol of hope and kindness in our community for many years. It goes beyond the walls of CPC, reaching out to those who are facing challenging times during the holiday season. To ensure that every family we support can enjoy a warm and joyous Christmas, we provide gift cards for clothing and toys, plus a grocery card for a holiday meal. Gift cards empower families to choose what they need most. It's a simple yet powerful way to share the gift of God's love.

The success of the Christmas Gift Ministry depends on the generosity of CPC members. To make this year's ministry a reality, we need your help. The gift cards we provide are only possible through the donations we receive.

Your donation, no matter the size, will make a signifi-

cant difference in the lives of these families. Whether it's \$10 or \$100, your generosity will help us reach our goal of spreading holiday cheer to those who need it most. The act of giving truly reflects the Christmas spirit and brings joy to the recipients, but also to those who give.

## How to Donate

Donating to the Christmas Gift Ministry is simple:

1. **In-Person:** Drop donations in the collection boxes in the Sanctuary during Sunday morning worship, designating them for Christmas Gift Ministry.



Each Sunday in the DeVries Gathering Place, there will be two tables: one table will have Christmas cards where you can write a caring note to families receiving gifts. This card will be included with their gift cards and go directly to them. What a special gift of love and encouragement! The other table will have a Christmas tree with ornaments indicating which gift cards we need. Choose as many as you are able or choose which cards you want your donation to go toward, such as Target, Walmart, or Ross. Your donation will

be the amount of the card(s) you choose. All gift cards for clothing and toys will be \$40. Grocery cards will be \$100. Or you can donate any amount to go towards the total needed.

2. **Online:** For your convenience, we have set up an online donation platform on our church website, where you can securely contribute.
3. **Mail:** You can also mail your donations to our church office. Please make checks payable to Carmichael Presbyterian Church and note "Christmas Gift Ministry" in the memo line.

Let's come together as a church community and make this year's Christmas Gift Ministry a resounding success. Your donations will bring joy, smiles, warmth, and hope to the hearts of those in need. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, let's also celebrate the love and compassion that bind us together as a church family.

## THE MISSION BELL

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# A Message from Our Presbytery Council

*“Be still, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”* -Psalm 46:10

We, the Council of North Central California Presbytery, are very aware that many in our churches are feeling anxious, worried and concerned as our country approaches November 5.

We as God’s people know that these times are very stressful to be faithful to the call of Jesus. It is our hope that we all can be in prayer and call upon God to be witnesses of the Resurrection.

May we take up the ministry of reconciliation and intercession on behalf of our nation and lay down any judgment or offense that causes us to withhold love from our neighbors. May we turn our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith and the king of another kingdom altogether.

Please take the time to spend practicing the spiritual disciplines that are vital to your faith, and be reminded that the God we serve is very active in our world.

“Almighty God, prepare our hearts and minds as we head toward voting. Empower us, O Lord, to make decisions rooted in the ways of Jesus rather than the ways of the



world. Give us wisdom and discernment as we cast our votes with a humble spirit, and let our voting be an act of prayer. May we be reminded that the candidates we vote for are not our savior, but you are the bringer of the heavenly kingdom, and our ultimate hope rests in you. We commend this nation to your care. Amen.” (Adapted from a prayer by Kimberly Deckel, priest in Anglican Church in North America) Peace,

MWS **Grace Suwabe**, Chair,  
First Presbyterian Church, Marysville  
RE **John Sims**,  
First Presbyterian Church, Turlock  
MWS **Mike Umbenhaur**,  
Woodland Presbyterian Church  
RE **Alice Sundquist**,  
Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church,  
Citrus Heights  
RE **Anna Niemann**,  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, West  
Sacramento  
MWS **Bob Azzarito**,  
Sierra Vista Community Church, Sac-  
ramento  
MWS **Brian Spangler**,  
Peace Presbyterian Church, Elk Grove  
RE **Candance Peterson**,  
First Presbyterian Church, Turlock  
RE **Cheryl Hunt**,  
First Presbyterian Church, Stockton

## Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil

November 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
2620 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA



Trinity Cathedral and PFLAG Sacramento will host the annual candlelight vigil in observance of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. All are welcome.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those lives lost due to actual or perceived gender identity and expression. The first memorial was a candlelight vigil in Boston in November 1999 to Rita Hester, murdered in 1998.

Since then, annual memorials on this day have been observed around the world. This vigil will be dedicated to the memories of Carina Holleran, Carol Byers and Ruby Molina among many others who have fallen to ignorance and intolerance.

Information at  
<https://www.sacgender.org/tdor> or (916) 455-2391

# ... Imagining God's Future ...

(Continued from page 1)

*Christ's love for all people.*

In 2024, CPC demonstrated this value with work done by the Inclusion Task Force, including:

- Adding "All are Welcome" rainbow signs and window stickers around the CPC campus to extend love to all God's people and be a welcoming & safe space for all,
- Supporting two Bible-based book studies that explored LGBTQIA+ topics, and
- Hosting a weekend workshop led by Covenant Network of Presbyterians to understand the important message of authentic welcome and full embrace of LGBTQIA+ people at CPC and in the community.



## Nurture Relationships:

*Building deep, meaningful relationships strengthens the church congregation and creates a supportive environment.*

Wednesday dinners are one of the ways relationships are strengthened at CPC. Here's how:

- The number of diners increased steadily over the past few years with attendance this fall averaging 60-65 people.
- It is a budget-friendly, mid-week dinner enjoyed by all generations and provides

precious opportunities for fellowship, and

- The food is well-balanced and delicious!

## Grow in Faith Together:

*Spiritual growth as a community is key to living out God's vision for our future.*

One of the main components of the CPC worship experience is music. Our music program creates a spiritual atmosphere, providing moments for reflection and prayer each Sunday:

- **Keith Atwater's** second year of leadership of the music program is continuing to revitalize the music department

and guided the team through some personnel changes without missing a beat.



- New members are often drawn into active participation in the church through one of the music groups.

## Connect with and Serve Our Community and the

**World:** *We are called beyond the church campus to share God's message.*

CPC has a wide range of outreach efforts in both our community and the world. One substantial outreach is the Food Closet which continues to grow its impact in the local area. In the last year, we:

- Celebrated the Food Closet's 50th anniversary, marking service to tens of thousands of people and households over the years.
- Increased outreach in 2024 with daytime and evening food pickups
- Obtained a significant additional food source this year through a federal program that processes surplus food for distribution to low-income individuals.
- Hired an operations manager to meet the increase in activity.

We can be thankful for the ministries of this congregation over the past year. Our mission statement encourages us to see a future shaped by faith, compassion, and service. Through living out CPC's guiding principles, we can help bring God's vision for our community to life.

Commitment Sunday is November 24 during which we'll each dedicate our financial pledges to support the CPC ministries and programs in 2025. Let us support God's plan for CPC's future and step forward by increasing our giving to meet next year's needs.

# New Mission Bells Director



My name is **Rikki Pratt**, and I am excited to be a part of CPC's wonderful community. I grew up in a Lutheran church and attended Concordia University Irvine, where I received a BA in Music Performance. Handbells have been a lifelong passion of mine, and I'm looking forward to growing with Mission Bells.

Previously, I conducted handbells and choir and led the praise band at Light of the Hills Lutheran Church in Cameron Park, CA. I have always been drawn to creating and nurturing music ministries, and I'm eager to share my love for music with others. I believe that music has the power to bring people together and deepen our spiritual connections.

In my spare time, I enjoy watching and participating in musical theatre and opera, and reading books while snuggling with my cats, Sugar and Pepper.

## Art Exhibits

by Kathy Daigle, CPC Art Committee

The CPC Art Committee was delighted to welcome **Tom Strychacz** on October 13 for Meet the Artist. His vibrant oil paintings are whimsical and romantic. The 23 paintings on exhibit depict the charm of both Northern California and his native England.



We hope you take time to look for the details in his paintings. Tom likes to include unexpected touches for a bit of fun and whimsy, like a paper airplane being thrown

from an upper window as a nod to his son. What treasures can you find?

Tom's art will be on exhibit until Tuesday, November 12. If you're interested in one of his paintings, we'll put you in touch with Tom.

Our next show will be photography and other art by many of those in CPC's youth group. We're excited to showcase their work in the "Thankful For" art show. It will be on display from Wednesday, November 13 through early January 2025. Stay tuned for more details with dates to meet the artists.

## The Alternative Gift Market is Happening!

Sunday, November 3  
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
in McMillen Hall



Support local groups like Carmichael HART, national groups like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and international groups like 1000 Schools.

There will also be craft vendors and refreshments.

This is your chance to support local and international mission agencies.

Please join us—  
and with a little luck you can finish your Christmas shopping early!

# Joy in the Journey

by Sharon MacLean

In September, 38 women attended this year's Women's Retreat. After not having a women's retreat for five and a half years, it was such a treat to be able to do it again. And to retreat at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center at Lake Tahoe made it extra special. It was great to see many familiar faces and many new women join us this year.

Our theme was "Joy in the

Journey" and our speaker for the weekend was Pastor **Carrie Lane** from Federated Church in Placerville. Pastor Carrie challenged us with scriptures, discussions, different ways of thinking about joy in our life, and sharing our joys. It was powerful.

We also enjoyed fellowship, crafts, activities, singing, prayer, worship, the beautiful grounds of Zephyr, amazing

weather and someone else doing the cooking. I'm so grateful for all who helped me make this weekend happen and for all the women who attended. God surely blessed us with a weekend full of joy.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the **2025 Women's Retreat September 12-14 at Zephyr Point.**



Photos by Sharon MacLean

# Nevertheless

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

*Nevertheless* is a wonderful word! For example: The holidays are coming and you feel lonely, *nevertheless* God sends people into your life to lift you up. You are worried and afraid, *nevertheless* you trust that God is with you. You feel harried and pushed for time, *nevertheless* when you make time for prayer, you feel God's love and peace surround you. Your world

is falling apart, *nevertheless* some good things are happening. Take a minute and reflect --what is your *nevertheless*?

Actively looking for each *nevertheless*, takes practice. Much like actively being aware of blessings in your life; being grateful—takes practice. Both these activities bring faith to life. Unfortunately, the storms of life, like the uncertainties and difficulties we are experiencing with the divisiveness surrounding us and the catastrophic effects of climate change, have a way of distracting us from the Divine Presence that is always accessible to us. When we look to our own strengths and abilities to solve our problems, we

become afraid. *Nevertheless* we can learn to count on God. Macrina Wiederkehr, in her book *Abide*, says that we each “must learn to listen for the voice that awakens me to the



One who surfs the storms with me.”

“Awakening to the One,” can take many forms. Memorizing scripture is always helpful! For ex-

ample: Joshua 1:5, “I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you;” 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline;” and Isaiah 43:5, “Fear not, for I am with you.” Holding on to verses like these gives us the strength to trust God and to walk through our fears with courage.

Another way we may be helped through life's difficulties may be by asking for a Stephen Minister. Many in our congregation and community are facing grief, terminal illness, divorce, loss of a job, an empty nest, chronic illness, and many other challenges. We know that God can always

bring forth good out of every calamity. Yet when our life is turned upside down by any kind of disaster, it may be hard to remember and *believe* that. Stephen Ministers are there to walk with you through your crisis and to help you see that *nevertheless* with God's love, you will be okay.

Although our pastors may find there are more needs for long term care than they can easily provide, the good news is, Stephen Ministers are trained to supplement, *not* replace, pastoral care. When someone requests a Stephen Minister, the Stephen Minister meets with that person for about an hour each week. Stephen Ministers provide confidentiality, listen non-judgmentally, offer a sounding board, and the special encouragement, care, and Christ-centered support for as long as it is needed.

If you find yourself either needing a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you in your time of difficulty, or you believe a friend or colleague could benefit from one, call the confidential line (916-486-0604), and/or contact one of the pastors or Stephen Leaders for more information:

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Solar for CPC: Progress Report

by Len Tozier  
on behalf of the Parking Lot Taskforce

At the Congregational meeting on August 18 approval was granted for a loan from the Synod of Northern California which will allow CPC to install a Solar Electric system. A few weeks later (and after nearly three years of meetings, research, and planning) **Tim Farley**, Chair of our Buildings and Grounds Division, and **John Salmon** from Premo Roofing and Solar signed the contract that will allow us to begin the installation process. We are hopeful that the system will be operational by the end of



*John Salmon from Premo Solar and CPC's Tim Farley sign the contract to install a solar system at CPC.*

this year or early next year. Premo has already begun the engineering analysis for the project. The solar panels will be installed in the parking lot and are projected to cover about 65% of our monthly electricity costs. In the early months of 2025 we will begin a capital campaign to raise funds for the Solar System and the renovation of the Parking Lot. Each of us will then have an opportunity to financially support these important additions to our campus to keep us strong for the next 100 years. We will keep you posted as progress continues on the solar and parking lot projects.

# Run to Feed the Hungry 2024

Have you made plans for Thanksgiving Day? Consider gathering with friends and family to participate in the Run to Feed the Hungry in Carmichael rather than the busy, crowded streets in Sacramento. Registration is open at [runtofeedthehungry.com](https://runtofeedthehungry.com).

We will not create a team this year, just register to participate “virtually” and then send an email to **ElizaBeth Phillips** at [cerphilips@gmail.com](mailto:cerphilips@gmail.com) to let us know that you plan to join us as we run/walk 3.1 miles through the streets of Carmichael on Thanksgiving morning. Many of our participants will walk, rather than run, and strollers, bicycles, and pets are all welcome. Invite friends and family to join the fun and fellowship. Contact ElizaBeth Phillips at [cerphilips@gmail.com](mailto:cerphilips@gmail.com) with questions.

... Nevertheless ...

*(Continued from page 8)*

**Mary Thomas, John Wallace, Len Tozier, or Misty Dunn.**



*CPC's 2023 Run to Feed the Hungry group.*

# Mission Update

by Barbara Farley

The Carmichael Food Closet wants to thank all of you who participated in donating peanut butter in August and soup in Souptember. These are both items that are often hard for us to get from the Food Bank and grocery stores who support our distribution.

We did not have a donation item for October because we are now participating in Kids Can. Food Closet volunteers delivered flyers, posters and empty cardboard boxes to 18 elementary, middle and high schools in our area. During October students brought non-perishable food items to school and put them in the boxes. In early November, the same volunteers will return to the schools and pick up the boxes. In the past, we have collected as many as 14,000 pounds of goods. That's 7 tons!

For the rest of this year we ask you to continue to save cardboard egg cartons and grocery bags to donate to the Food Closet. Some people have even purchased extra paper grocery bags and donated those to us. We use 120 to 150 grocery bags a day to serve those who come to us for nourishing food.

The Food Closet continues

to need volunteers. Please consider donating at least two hours a month to supporting this work that Carmichael Presbyterian has supported

for 50 years. Check the opportunities below and find a place where you can contribute.



## CARMICHAEL FOOD CLOSET NEEDS YOUR HELP

Check one of the following opportunities and return this form to the office or leave in the DeVries Gathering Place on the refreshment table.

**OR**

Call Barbara Farley if you want to discuss possibilities before you make a commitment 916 947-2827

- Drive the Food Closet van to pick up food at local grocery stores before 10 am on any day Monday through Friday.
- 8:30 to 10:30 am prepare food for afternoon distribution. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday.
- 12:30 to 2:30 pm pack bags and load food into cars of families who drive up for our food distribution. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.
- 5:15 to 7:15 pm pack bags and load food into cars of families who drive up for our food distribution. Thursday evenings only.
- Data entry for reporting our numbers to the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Times are at your convenience.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# Presbyterian Women Study Continues

by Terry Sakuda

The Presbyterian Women Bible Study for 2024-2025: *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* continues in November with Lesson Three: Food Justice.

Scripture: Genesis 1:22, 3:19; Exodus 16:13-18, 19-21; Joshua 5:12; Psalms 65:11-14, 78:23-29, 105:40-41; Hosea 4:1b-3; Micah 6:12-15; Mathew 13:8; Mark 4:8; Luke 8:

The main idea of this lesson is that the Bible portrays the earth as yielding food in abundance, and today's agricultural scientists say it could provide food for all. We can learn to produce food with justice and peace and feed a starving world.

Scripture tells us that the earth yields food in abundance and the tragedy of starvation is needless. We will learn that throughout history greed, slavery, serfdom, industrial farming practice and inequitable food distribution have led to a more impoverished world. Hosea puts it this way, "The land mourns... even the fish of the sea are perishing." We will discuss

examples of this tragedy and how we can reverse it starting with Scripture.

There are Bible study



Lesson Three in the PW Horizons Study explores "Food Justice."

books still available. If you are interested in obtaining a study book, please contact **Terry Sakuda**

at (571) 205-8055 or [terry.sakuda@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.sakuda@yahoo.com). Bible Study books are available for \$12 in the church office.

One way to explore the study is by attending our Pastor led study via Zoom on the second Thursday of the month

at 10:00 a.m. Lesson 3 will be led by one of our pastors on November 14, 2024. Contact **Karen Gray** in the church office and she will be happy to include you on the list to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome.

PW Circles are another way to learn more about the study. PW Circle meetings are a time of fellowship, mission, prayer and Bible Study. On the third Thursday of the month Naomi Circle meets in the DeVries Gathering Place at 10:00 a.m. (Leader: **Bonnie Hard**) and Mary Martha Circle meets in the DeVries Gathering place at 1:00 p.m. (Co-Leaders **Kathy Daigle** and **Lisa Benadom**). All women of CPC are invited to visit a meeting. Come check us out!

CPC Presbyterian Women present

## Advent Gathering

Friday, December 6 at 12:00 noon

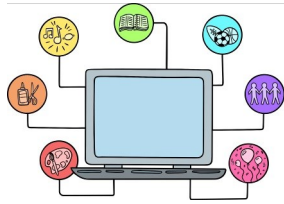
Please join us in the Sanctuary for a **FREE Concert** of seasonal music from the marvelous **El Camino High School Choir** under the direction of Tessa Kelly

*All are welcome! Bring your Friends!*

An illustration of four people in period clothing (a man in a blue suit and top hat, a woman in a red dress, a woman in a green dress, and a man in a brown suit and top hat) standing around a street lamp, with musical notes floating around them.

# Help Wanted

by Tim Farley



The Administration Division is looking for a person to explore opportunities for grants that might apply to CPC's property or activities. For example, CPC recently applied for a grant relating to physical security for the church - namely, gating and fencing and a video security system.

We were made aware of this grant by a CPC member; we think it would be worthwhile to have someone proactively looking for grants. Are you willing to explore those kinds of opportunities for us? If you have a willingness to help, a level of comfort with online searching, and good writing skills, please contact **Tim Farley** at [t\\_farley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t_farley@sbcglobal.net)

**MISSION BELL DEADLINE**  
**November 10**  
for the  
**December/January**  
**edition**

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

Submit articles to Karen Gray at [karen@carmichaelpres.org](mailto:karen@carmichaelpres.org) or mail/drop off a hard copy in the church office.

## Membership Class

**Want to find out what it means to be Presbyterian, how CPC operates, and how you can connect to the life and ministry of CPC in a way that is meaningful to you?**

Join Pastor Keith for new member classes on

**Sunday, November 17**  
**1:00-3:00 p.m.**  
and

**Saturday, November 23**  
**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**  
(includes Welcome Lunch!)

**Childcare will be provided upon request.**

Questions? Want to sign up?  
Contact Julie Ueltzen at  
916-486-9081 or [carmichaelpres@gmail.com](mailto:carmichaelpres@gmail.com)

## In Our Church Family



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

- † **Jen & Kaynetia Shay** and family on the loss of their nephew, **Daniel Vaughn-Narvarro** on September 28.
- † the family of **John King**, a former CPC member and youth leader in the 1980s, who passed away on October 11.

# Scuttlebutt

## News from CPC's Marinerships

### Companionship

Thirteen of our shipmates enjoyed our get together at **Tim & Barbara Farley's** home on Saturday, October 5. We started out with some delicious snacks, and drinks, and conversation. Tim gave us some great directions about decorating pumpkin tops with moss and succulents. Many of us had a great time being artistic, and choosing beautiful little succulents, and other fall-like materials to decorate our pumpkins. We started with spray on glue and then moss, and then added the succulents.

Every pumpkin was different, and all were beautiful! We then sat down for our meeting.

**Terry Barto** led the meeting with help from **Priscilla Mauerman**. Terry mentioned that she had called **Nina Henley** to see how she was doing. She is still having some health problems, but hopes to be able to join us again some time soon. We also missed **Chris Beeby** who was feeling under the weather, **Joan Hur-**

**lock** who had just returned from a long trip, as well as **Kathy Daigle, Carol and Harry Jones, and Jenny and Keith DeVries.**



*Companionshippers (clockwise from top) Sharlene St. Clair, Tim Farley, Sharleen Millering, Terry Barto, and Karen Banker decorated pumpkins at their October meeting.*

### Nancy Studer

read a devotional on Pumpkins. We learned that pumpkins are symbols of abundance, prosperity and good fortune, associated with the harvest season. The pumpkin's ability to produce so much food from a single seed is a testament to its importance as a food source of abundance. Carving pumpkins originated as a way to scare off evil spirits. Most people probably don't enjoy the bounty of the pumpkin for

food. Just as we should more often enjoy the food within the pumpkin, we should read and learn from the bounty inside of our Bibles. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" from Psalm 119: it nourishes our spirit like the candle people often put in the pumpkin. The Bible has a candle within that will never go out.

We will enjoy our new pumpkin decorations throughout the fall season and remember the bounty within, like the bounty in our Bibles.

**Marti Wallace and Sharlene St. Clair** had us write ideas in a notebook for next year. We will have an officer meeting soon to go through those ideas and choose some to present at our planning meeting next month.

**Elayne Anderson** thought we should all go ice skating some time. We had a good laugh over that idea.

Elayne also gave the treasurer's report. We have \$1,025 in our treasury and need to decide how to spend it. We will talk about ideas for donations at our next meeting. Some ideas were buying cookies for the Sunday mornings

*(Continued on page 14)*

## ... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 13)

when our ship is in charge of bringing them, donating to the Deacons' Fund, the church library, Family Promise, or Supper on Saturday. Helping with, and visiting the new site for Family Promise was proposed by Barbara Farley, as well as helping with one of the Supper On Saturday dinners.

Thanks to Nancy Studer for the pumpkin photos and for this excellent article!

### Nautilus

Nautilus met in September in the Parlor as usual, with a baker's dozen present. **Margie and Jim Marshall** hosted, and treated us to a delightful presentation by daughter **Kitti Ruttan**, a cat woman in more than name.

Kitti is a international cat judge (Yes, they have cat shows just like dog shows, except the cat are not required to prance around on

leashes) and she also raises, shows, and sells Selkirk breed cats, three of which she brought along for our viewing and petting pleasure. Kitti em-

phasized the vast differences in personalities in her pure-breed cats.

the menu was what is beginning to be an annual affair: split pea soup. Maybe Bep had been planning on a more typical cool fall day. Lunch was topped off with chocolate mousse.

A baker's dozen attended. We were happy to see **Sandi Lindley**. **Jan Olsen** and **Doris Beckert** were under the weather. We welcomed guest **Pattie Shaw** again.

Each person's favorite Bible verses were read. They will be compiled into a booklet for all to ponder and for ship chaplains to use during the devotional portion of our meetings.

Our usual white elephant auction is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, at 2:30 in the church parlor. It is now called "Secret Treasures" to reflect a more upscale type of donation. Funds from the high bidders will be used to continue our extensive cargo projects. Recent expenditures have been: wooden bench for the courtyard, shrubs for the columbarium area, donations to emancipation baskets for foster children, Christmas

Gift Ministry, and donations in memory of our departed shipmates.



*Nautilus ship enjoyed a presentation by international cat judge Kitti Ruttan, and her furry friends.*

phased the vast differences in personalities in her pure-breed cats.

Kitti told us about the breeding and care of cats of various breeds and the amazing technology involved in the process, including DNA involvement to a surprising degree. She invited us to attend a cat show; a prospect that seems desirable for anybody with their own kitty.

### Skipjacks

**Bep van der Mik** hosted Skipjacks at her home for a luncheon on an unusually warm October Saturday. On



# 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  
**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:

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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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Keith Atwater	music@carmichaelpres.org

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





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## 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](https://youtube.com/@carmichaelpres) or search for “carmichaelpres” on the YouTube app or your Smart TV.



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



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### 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade can join CPC's children's choir, Waterfall Singers.

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

