



THE MISSION BELL

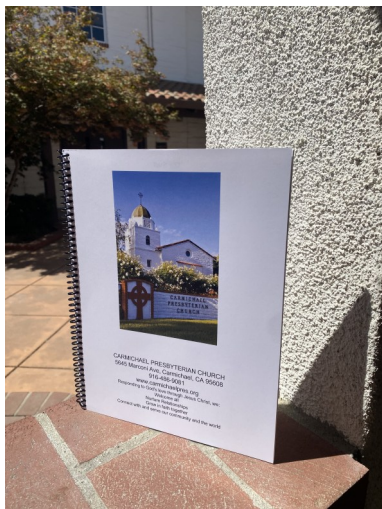
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2025

Volume LXV Number 8

New Directories are Here!

The long awaited and eagerly anticipated church directories have arrived! Directories can be picked up after church in the DeVries Gathering Place on Sundays through September 14. They will also be available in the church office starting



Tuesday, September 2 during regular office hours.

At this time, there is a limit of one directory per household. Questions? Contact **Julie Ueltzen** at 916-486-9081 or carmichaelpres@gmail.com.

Mission Division Update

Volunteer Opportunities and More!

A lot is happening in the Carmichael Presbyterian Mission Division! Read on for information about Carmichael HART, Community Healthworks and upcoming volunteer opportunities.

carmichaelhart.org/ meets the third Thursday of most

showers to our unhoused neighbors on Saturday mornings and lunches each week on Thursdays.

If you're curious about Carmichael HART or would like to volunteer, come to a



Carmichael HART

The Carmichael Homeless Assistance Resource Team (<https://>

months in the Howard Crowley room at 6:00 p.m. As many of you already know, Carmichael HART volunteers offer

meeting or get in touch with **David Mathews, Scott Young** or **Barbara Farley**. The meetings

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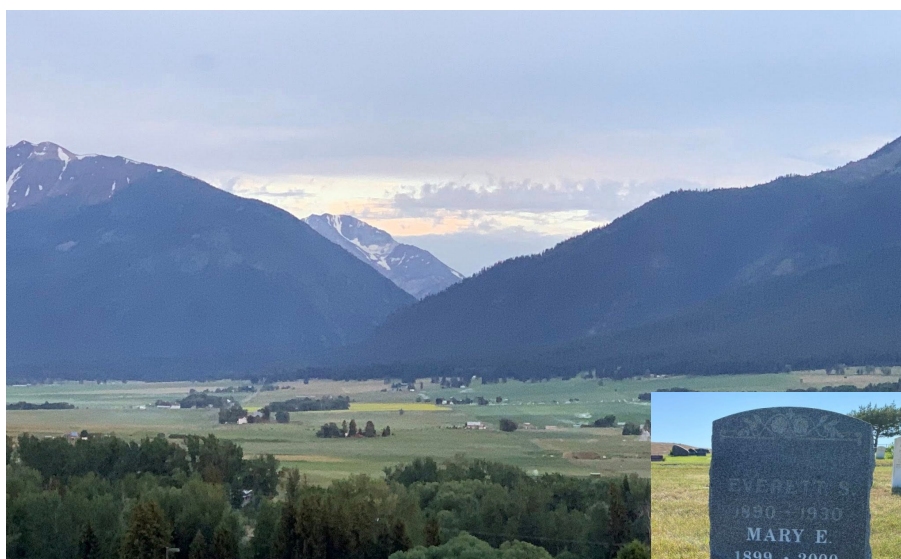
From Pastor Keith Summer Road Trip

It seems so long ago now, but in July, **Jenny** and I, along with our daughter, **Kaylan**, and her partner, **Drew**, took a road trip of 2,114 miles with precious cargo: our daughter, **Kristel**, and Jenny's dad, **Dean's** ashes, to place them at the Pines Cemetery Mausoleum in the Spokane Valley. With many stops along the way, I dubbed this trip the "Family and Friends Tour."

Upon our return, people asked, "How was your vacation? Did you have fun?" At first, I wasn't quite sure how to respond, but having had a few weeks to ponder our trip, here are my thoughts on the DeVries Family and Friends Tour 2025:

First, Jenny and I love a good road trip! Since I began studying at Whitworth University in 1975 until Jenny's dad came to live with us in 2020, Jenny and I made the trek from Northern California to Spokane several times a year – and it's one of our favorites! On this trip, we reminisced

about past family road trips, enjoyed one of our go-to stops in Bend, Oregon, and admired the postcard views of Eastern Oregon from Highway 97 between Weed and Biggs Junction. It's a little slice of heaven.



Pastor Keith and Jenny DeVries' summer road trip included a stop in Enterprise, Oregon, where many of Jenny's ancestors homesteaded and shaped the region.



Another stop on our "Family and Friends Tour" was Enterprise, Oregon, in the northeast corner of the state. Jenny's ancestors came to Enterprise by way of the Oregon Trail and she is related to or knows at least half of the cemetery's residents. It is a stunning location on the way to nowhere, but worth a visit! Other "tour stops" included time with dear friends **Don and Barb Fox**, who were our travel companions on our trip to France in 2012, a visit with my

cousin, **Neil**, and his wife, **Karen**, a stop to see Jenny's Aunt **Rose**, and a visit with Jenny's cousin, **Gail**.

This was also an emotional trip. We weren't sure how we would feel as we moved

through the grieving process. Our intent was to limit this trip to close friends and family. Even though there were many friends we could have visited, we wanted to focus on being together as a family as we said goodbye. The day before we placed Kristel's and Dean's ashes, we got a call from our dear friend,

Denise Williams,

who heard that we were in Spokane. Denise's husband, **John**, a good friend and colleague, died not long after Kristel. Their daughters, **Meghan** and **Marissa**, childhood friends of Kristel and Kaylan, along with Denise, joined us at the cemetery to remember, laugh, cry, and celebrate God's gifts to us named Kristel and Dean. It meant so much to have them with us.

Thank you for being part of
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...Mission Division Update...

(Continued from page 1)

alternate between board meetings and volunteer meetings. The next volunteer/general public meeting will be September 18.

Community Healthworks

Community Healthworks (<https://cohewo.org/>) is a local non-profit which is committed to helping people achieve their health goals. They provide personalized and culturally responsive support to help individuals overcome barriers to care, connect to needed services and navigate complex systems. Their goal is to remove the obstacles so that all people have an equal opportunity to be healthy and lead a life of dignity and humanity.

Carmichael HART works closely with Community Healthworks to identify and support people whose health is compromised due to home-

lessness. If you have any questions about Community Healthworks or would like to volunteer, the best person to contact is **Scott Young**.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have two ongoing volunteer opportunities: working at the Carmichael Food Closet and helping with Safe Harbor (<https://www.weforceinc.org/>



[safe-harbor](#)). Safe Harbor is a pioneering program to provide transitional tiny homes for working low income families with children on their journey to more stable housing and situations. Carmi-

chael Presbyterian is one of many host congregations and our next week to serve is September 22-27, 2025. If you have any questions about Safe Harbor contact **Bob Curtis** or go to their website.

The other need for volunteers in the near future involves the Alternative Gift Market, scheduled for November 2. This unique event gives every member of Carmichael Presbyterian the chance to support local, national and international service organizations. We do this by allowing them space in McMillen Hall for a few hours one Sunday in November, so they can present their literature and (in some cases) their products. It takes a lot of work to set up the hall, provide refreshments, do the accounting and clean up afterwards. If you'd like to volunteer please see **Bob Curtis** or stop by the DeVries Gathering Place after service to sign up.

Mission Division Contact Information

- David Mathews - mark7sax@gmail.com
- Bob Curtis - rkcurtis6@comcast.net
- Scott Young - info@cohewo.org
- Barbara Farley - b_farley@sbcglobal.net

...From Pastor Keith...

(Continued from page 2)

our family for more than 24 years and for graciously asking about our vacation. God blessed us with a meaningful road trip filled with memories. I hope and trust God has blessed you on your trips big or small this summer.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Keith

Waterfall Singers Start September 21

by Nancy Studer

All children at CPC, in Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to make music with the Waterfall Singers. We meet most Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Room 104.

Why should your child or grand-child join Waterfall Singers?

During our rehearsal time we sing, talking about the words in our songs as messages for life. I choose songs that have important messages about God's love and the importance of our love for each other in our group, our families, school, and the world around us. Learning our songs and keeping the words in our hearts and minds is a way to grow in our faith together. Putting words to rhythm and melody is a wonderful way to memorize scripture. I love and believe the saying, "Those who sing pray twice!"

We also spend time learning to play instruments for fun and to add to our songs. We learn dances and do movement activities to enhance our musical learning and enjoy

our time together. We learn about the different parts of music: melody, rhythm, form, tone color, dynamics, and tempo and how they all help shape the songs we sing.

Also, learning and participating in a musical group is a

with music, and we always love to welcome new voices and friends!

Sixth graders who still want to sing are welcome! Four-year-olds are also welcome to join us for all or part of the time provided they love to sing, function well in a group setting, and have a par-

ent or grand-parent willing to stay with them. If you have any questions about Waterfall Sing-



Waterfall Singers rehearse on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and sing during worship about once a month. All kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome and encouraged to join!

wonderful way to experience the importance of teamwork and working well together. Plus, singing and "making a joyful noise" with our voices and instruments in songs of praise is lots of fun! All of our fun and practice time helps us prepare to sing during Sunday worship about once a month.

I hope all of the singers who were part of Waterfall Singers last year will come back for another year of fun

ers or want to know more, please contact **Nancy Studer** at nancystuder@hotmail.com.

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.

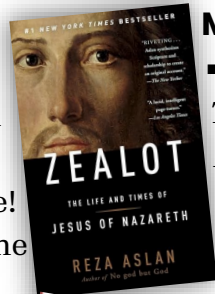
Library Corner Online Library Catalog!

by Doris Beckert

Project LibraryThing Completed!

Finally, all 2,900+ church library books have been entered into an online database! Users can remotely access the collection. Here's how:

- Go to <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/carmichaelpres>
- Click on the "Books" tab to find the full listing of books. In the upper right corner, there is a search bar and books can be searched by title, author, or subject.
- Each book has an icon that looks like the card of a card catalog (on the right next to the green "plus" sign). By clicking on that link, it will bring up the details of the book, including the Dewey Decimal Code (DDC), which can then be found in the church library. Please note, the DDC may vary slightly.
- Come to the church library to check out the book(s) you've found. The library is open on Sunday mornings and by appointment during church office hours (Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.).



More Donations!

▪ *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*. Reza Aslan. 232.9. The historical Jesus; reads like a novel.

Donated by **Keith Atwater**.

▪ *Augustine: Major Writings*. Benedict Groeschel. 270.2.

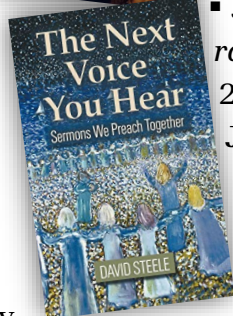
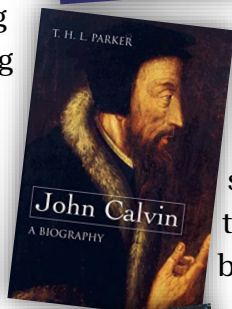
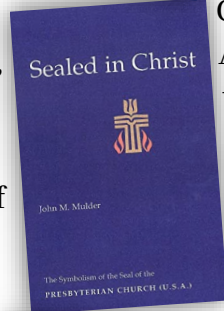
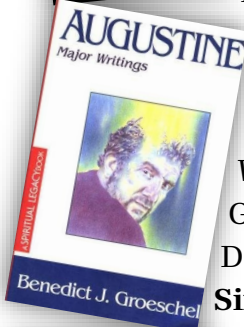
Donated by **John Simpson**. Fr.

Groeschel shows how Augustine's influential work is as relevant today as it was 1,600 years ago.

▪ *Sealed in Christ: The Symbolism of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. John Mulder. 246. Explores the meaning and message behind the seal of the PC(USA). Donated by **John Simpson**.

▪ *John Calvin: A Biography*. T.H.L. Parker. 230.4. Donated by **John Simpson**.

▪ *The Next Voice You Hear: Sermons We Preach Together*. David Steele. 252. Sermons and choral readings in his humorous style. Donated by **John Simpson**.



Caregiver Support Group



If you are caring for a loved one,

you are invited to join CPC's Care Giver Support group, meeting the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. The next meeting will be September 17.

For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact **Kathy Lewin** at kslewin@sbcglobal.net.

Donate Flowers



There are openings to donate flowers for Sunday worship in September and October. The cost is \$50 for one bouquet or \$100 for both bouquets. To donate, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4BA4AE29A5FE3-53059904-sanctuary> and 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.

Presbyterian Women Program Year Begins with Fall Gathering

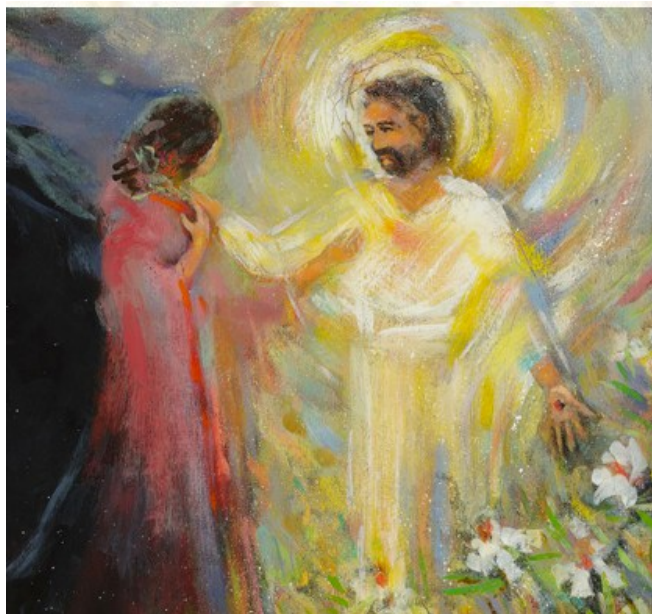
by Terry Sakuda

As we do every year, CPC's Presbyterian Women will begin our new PW Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, with a fall gathering on Thursday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeVries Gathering Place. **Pastor Keith DeVries** will introduce the study and guide us through Lesson One. All are invited.

In the nine lessons of the Bible study, we will explore:

- **Resilience** which is modeled by several Biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, and the words of Jesus. We will learn that resilience is the ability to spring back into shape in the face of adversity and trauma.
- **Christian joy** and how to find it in a chaotic world. We will learn that for most Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit preceded by love and followed by peace.
- **Identity.** We will seek to rediscover our identity. We

will learn that identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity.



Lesson One in the 2025-2026 PW Study, Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ looks at Mary Magdalene, The Tower.

Lesson One: Mary Magdalene, The Tower

Scripture: John 11:17-27

Main Idea: Our faith is strengthened by learning more about Mary Magdalene, a towering witness to the resurrection.

We will learn more about Mary Magdalene, her devotion to Jesus Christ, and her work to spread the gospel. She was there from the start of Jesus' ministry through the resurrection. This is remarkable considering attitudes toward

women at that time. We will learn more about Mary Magdalene's difficult history and how Jesus helped her through it. Her story is a model of resilience in her ability to bounce back in the face of challenging circumstances. This resilience gave her the courage to follow Jesus throughout his ministry, especially when she was travelling with mostly males.

PW Study Books

If you are interested in obtaining the Bible study book, please contact **Terry Sakuda** at 571-205-8055 or terry.sakuda@yahoo.com

Books are now available for \$16 in the church office and will also be available to purchase at the September 11 Fall Gathering.

PW Pastor's Bible Study

Starting in October, Pastor Keith will lead the monthly PW Bible Study, sharing insights with us on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. through May. All are welcome on Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact **Karen Gray** in the church

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...Presbyterian Women ...

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office for the Zoom link. These meetings are very informative and provide for lively discussions.

PW Circles

Presbyterian Women Circles meet monthly in small group circles for continued Bible study, prayer, fellowship, mission and to nurture our faith as we share with one another. We also share reflections, fellowship and prayers. As indicated in our August article, PW is going through changes. Naomi Circle will be on hiatus this year. Mary Martha Circle will continue to meet every third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. from October through May. If you have any questions about this Bible Study or about the Mary Martha Circle you can contact **Kathy Daigle** (kathy777@gmail.com) or **Lisa Benadom** (lbenadom@comcast.net). If you are interested in a new circle that would meet at a non-school day/workday time, please contact **Rae-Nani Stokes** at rae-nani@hotmail.com.

We hope you will join us for one or more of these gatherings.

Chips Ahoy! Returns



CPC's cookie-making fellowship returns this fall with a new schedule, meeting on the last Wednesday of each month, instead of the first. We will observe an alternate schedule during the holiday season, to be announced later.

In the meantime, we welcome any and all enthusiastic bakers to join us in preparing cookies

for Sunday mornings. We meet in McMillen Hall at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in supporting Chips Ahoy! in other ways, we welcome your donations of supplies for the pantry. Examples include basics like flour, sugar, butter, and eggs.

We also welcome common cookie add-ins, such as:

- chocolate or butterscotch chips
- coconut flakes
- oatmeal
- raisins
- peanut butter
- molasses
- the list goes on!

Monetary donations sent to **Paul Shultz** in the church office would be helpful as well.

We thank you. Our prayer is that our ministry brings people together in joyful fellowship.

For more info, contact **Lynette Ledesma**.

In Our Church Family

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

- ✠ **Harvey Swenson** and family on the loss of his sister, **Marti**, on July 17.
- ✠ **Dave and Suzanne Mathews** and family on the loss of Dave's brother, **Martin Mathews**, on August 1.
- ✠ the family of **Lisa Levering**, who passed away on August 19.



Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Marinerships

Mothership

On the third Wednesday in July, Mothership kept the summer spirit alive with our summer cargo project—this time serving up a taco dinner with ice cream sandwiches and Drumstick cones for dessert.



ship.

Later in the month, five shipmates set sail for a different kind of challenge—the Pirates of Tortuga escape room at



Mothership had a busy July, full of serving, fellowship, and fun!

We were delighted to welcome our Wednesday dinner “regulars” as well as some new friends, all gathering for a tasty meal and a healthy dose of mid-summer fellow-

PanIQ. According to our backstory, we were humble sailors who stopped in Tortuga for supplies, only to be kidnapped by pirates and locked

in their storeroom. With just 60 minutes to solve a series of puzzles and find the key to escape, we quickly discovered we made an excellent crew. Some clues fell into place easily, while others required a bit more patience and persistence—but in the end, we found the key and escaped with time to spare. The celebration continued at Whitey's Jolly Kone in West Sacramento, where we enjoyed burgers, fries, and their famous summer peach shakes.

Nautilus

Remember when you were going through family photos and came across an old unlabeled black and white picture of a child that neither you nor anyone else in your household recognized? Could that be a young Aunt Ruth, or maybe Cousin Amy, who you never met? Or a photo of somebody's kid with no connection to your family? **Liliane Morin**

presented a similar mystery game at the Nautilus ship's August meeting.

Each of the eleven shipmates gave Liliane an unlabeled

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... Scuttlebutt ...

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beled photo of themselves at a young age. Liliane saw only the backs of the photos and arranged them in random order so that even she could not identify them and then she labeled each on the back with a number



men were present, making their guessing easier. It was a bit odd watching members studying the faces of shipmates, looking for telltale noses, lips, eyes, or chins. **Charlotte Frink** proved amazingly adept, identifying



At their August gathering, Nautilus celebrated **Barbara Reimers'** birthday (top) and competed to see who could correctly identify the most members from their childhood photos.

from 1 to 12. Thus, only the person in the photo would be able to positively identify themselves. We were given a sheet of paper to record our guesses by number as the photos were passed around.

Some were relatively easy. Everyone got their own photo right, of course, and couples were highly likely to correctly guess their spouses. Only four

all twelve photos correctly; equally surprising was **Terry Sweeny's** 10 of 12, since he and his wife Judy are fairly new members of the ship.

Following the game, we celebrated **Barbara Reimers'** birthday with cake, cards, and best wishes. Barbara and **Wayne** are the sole remaining original Nautilus members.

Skipjacks

Plans for a re-enactment of the 1849 gold discovery at Sutter's Fort in Coloma were cancelled, so this report will cover instead the other activities in which some participated in July.

An optional outing to Music Circus was enjoyed by six Skipjacks on July 23. The musical we saw was "West Side Story," which most of us had viewed as a movie or on stage in the past. Nevertheless, we were wowed right from the opening by the athletic dancing. It was modified from Jerome Robbins' original choreography to accommodate Sacramento's round stage. Of course, there was outstanding singing of well known tunes ("Somewhere ... there's a place for us"). Music Circus never disappoints.

Another six-some attended a showing of the opera "La Traviata" by the New York Metropolitan Opera in HD on the big screen at the Cinemark movie theater in Citrus Heights. From **Margo Scandella** who has attended for years, to **Bette Johnson** who was hearing the opera for the first time, all were enthralled by the music, the acting, and the costumes and sets. The

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What's Up in Children's & Youth Ministry?

by Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

Unicorn Battle 2.0

On Sunday, September 28, Unicorn Battle 2.0 will be happening from 2:00-2:30 p.m.! We will be meeting at William B. Pond Park, check out the map to where to look for us. Youth and their parents are welcome to join! This is also a great event to bring a friend. All guests will need to fill out



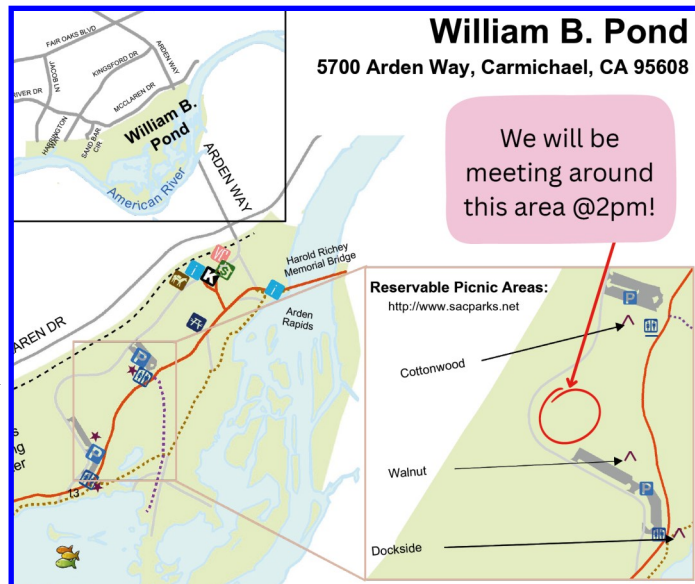
a waiver. Scan the QR code to get it.

Sunday School Resumes

On Sunday, September 14 students of all ages will be back in their usual Sunday school classrooms for fun and learning about God's love.



Last year's Unicorn Battle was a blast! Don't miss Unicorn Battle 2.0 on September 28.



Youth Group Split

I have some great news: our youth group is getting bigger! With that growth comes some new realities. Wednesday nights will look a little different for students (though everything will be the same for parents). Youth Group will continue to meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. After a combined group game, our middle schoolers and high schoolers will split into separate groups for discussion times.

Questions? Contact **Michael Lombrano** at 916-486-9081 or michael@car-michaelpres.org

... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 9)
camera goes from wide angle to very close up, so that the audience feels like they are on stage along with the singers, especially during the arias ("Libiamo"). Singers have to look the part, sing well, and act convincingly. All agreed

that it was an emotional (get out the Kleenex) and worthwhile 2 1/2 hour experience.

Other optional but ongoing activities were weekly coffee visits with **Dick & Carole Jacob** in the Oakmont lobby, and weekly bridge games. Let's not forget our hard

working Elder **Terry Sakuda**, and Deacons **Bette Johnson**, **Glenda Perrou** and **Pattie Shaw**. And kudos to our officers who each in their own way help with keeping the ship afloat.

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

John Busath,
Food Closet Warehouse
Manager

Heidi Van Regenmorter,
Organist

Gabe Bisho, Pianist

Will Condrey, Drummer

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:

916-486-9081

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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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.





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Carmichael, CA 95608-4498

Periodicals Postage
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95608

TIME VALUE MAIL

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 DeVries 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.

