



# THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2026

Volume LXVI Number 6

## CPC Hosts World Relief Graduation Ceremonies

by Kathy Lewis

World Relief and Carmichael Presbyterian Church have partnered together since 2018 to support primarily Afghan women and their families who came to Sacramento as refugees. We have volunteers who help with the women's online literacy program, and we provide space at CPC for classes conducted by World Relief

staff. In addition to hosting two smaller graduation ceremonies for men's classes, on June 2, CPC hosted the



annual graduation for the almost 80 graduates who completed World Relief's ESL Literacy and Cultural Integration Program for pre-literate Afghan women.

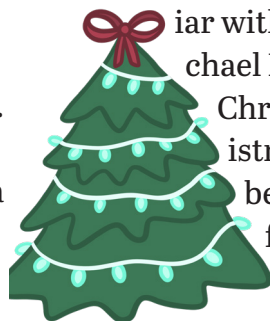
Over 100 people, including volunteer teaching assistants, CPC volunteers, and World Relief staff attended the graduation and lunch, with all the food brought by the students, except for cakes

(continued on page 3)

## Christmas in July

by Laura Garwood  
mas in July.

Did you spot a jolly, grey-haired man on your way into church? No, not **Bruce MacLean**. Santa Claus! But why would Santa Claus be here at CPC—in July? Because, as the deacons are happy to announce, it's Christ-



You are likely familiar with the Carmichael Presbyterian Christmas Ministry, which has been around for many years and has changed in many ways, even adapting to allow its

continuation during a global pandemic. (Remember when it was the Christmas Basket Ministry? Me too, though I never saw any sign of baskets.) The ministry is continuing to change as our needs and abilities change, but we still joyfully show love to many

(continued on page 4)

### Inside This Issue

From Pastor Ivan	2
Carmichael 4th of July Parade	4
Parking Lot Update	5
In Our Church Family	5
Summer Sunday Seminar	5
Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast	5
Presbyterian Women	6
Women's Retreat	6
Beware of Scams	7
One Afghan Woman's Story	8
Library Corner	9
Scuttlebutt	10
CPC at Pride Parade	12

From Pastor Ivan:

# When “Pastor Keith” or “Pastor Ivan” Isn’t Really

It was midnight and I got a ping for an important email that read, “Hi, this is Pastor Keith. I’m in a meeting and can’t talk, but I need your help with something urgent. Could you purchase some gift cards for a church member in crisis? I’ll pay you back later.”

Keith is in a meeting at midnight? Waaaait just a minute...

Recently, several pastor colleagues of mine have shared that some of their members have been the target of church-specific scams. I also know

this has happened at Carmichael, and it probably will again.

Scammers can impersonate church staff through text messages, emails, or social media accounts. Increasingly, artificial intelligence is being used to make it look and sound more convincing. Gone are the days of misspellings and odd phrasing from a foreign prince; now are the days when everything is slick, legitimate-looking, and professional.

Red Flags to Watch For

- Urgent requests for money,

especially via gift cards and cryptocurrencies

- Claims they “can’t talk on the phone right now”
- Messages from email addresses or phone numbers not matching our official contact information
- Requests that seem out of



character for me or our church

First, know that we will never contact you asking for money or gift cards. We appreciate your generosity and stewardship of resources, so Carmichael has secure and effective systems in place for us to help people in need, even on short notice, and none of those involve me (or any church staff) asking you for money. If you get a message through an unusual medium, do not respond or reply directly. Mark the email as spam, block the phone num-

ber, and always verify directly with the church through known contact methods.

Our church directory is for community connection, not for marketing or solicitation. Please don’t share it with those outside our congregation. If scammers obtain these directories, they gain names, contact information, and sometimes details about relationships within our church.

If you’ve received one of these messages, don’t be embarrassed—these scammers are increasingly sophisticated. Please let us know so we can alert others.

Remember: we will never contact you out of the blue asking for gift cards or immediate financial assistance.

When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples (Matthew 10), he said, “I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

As Presbyterians, we value both community care AND thoughtful discernment. Let’s practice both as we protect one another from those who would exploit our generosity.

## ... Graduations ...

(continued from page 1)

brought by World Relief. It was a sumptuous feast!!! And the graduates dressed in gorgeous outfits for the occasion. All the women received certificates of graduation, books for their children, and special gifts for various accomplishments like perfect attendance. Several women participated in special Afghan dances for the celebration!

**Debbie Nordeen** coordinated CPC's hosting, joined by volunteers **Alexis Davison** (also a teaching assistant), **Misty and Bill Dunn, Bonnie and Burt Logan, Brian Nordeen, Kathy Lewis, Hannah O'Neill, and Gretchen Richardson**. Men served in the kitchen out of respect for the cultural norms that made the day a "women-only" event.

**Heidi Guttschuss**, who is responsible for World Relief's education program and our liaison, expressed their gratitude: "On behalf of World Relief, a HUGE thank you for a wonderful Afghan women's graduation last week! McMillen Hall was transformed from an ordinary gym to a place of beaming smiles, a rainbow of colors, exuberant music and self-expression, and groaning tables of Afghan delicacies. Thank you for helping create such a festive day as we celebrated the

achievements of these resilient women. Your leadership, Debbie, and the CPC volunteers made things run so smoothly. This was our biggest event yet—just under 80 women graduated, up from where we started with about 20 those years right after Covid—so the planning that went into it was crucial for the event's success."

Here are comments from some of the Afghan graduates that demonstrate the impact that the program has on them.

"I'm sad today is the last day. I've learned so much. Recently, my husband asked me to make an appointment for one of the children. At first I thought I wouldn't be able to do it. But I called them and didn't need an interpreter for the first part, and only towards the end did I ask for an interpreter. I am very proud that I was able to make an appointment for my kids. It's hard, it isn't easy, but I can do it."

"I was not educated because I was a mother and could not do much for myself. But here, I have learned things, like my phone number and date of birth. I am still trying, and I would like to learn how to write so that I can help my family."

"In Afghanistan I was a tailor, sewing clothes. When I came to the US, I was like a blind person. I wasn't able to

say the names of the colors. I was not able to read or write. Now my eyes are open. I know colors: black, white, green, and more. Now I have I hope that I can continue my profession."

"When we came here, we did not know anything, we did not understand things, and my mind was not at peace. When I joined these classes, I learned everything, and now I have progressed from zero to one hundred. Thank you!"

"We used to live with a lot of fear. Now we understood many things that we had not learned before: American traditions, how to take care of ourselves, and how to properly raise and educate our children, and US laws. Now we know that there is nothing to fear."

*What do you hope to do after this program?*

- "I'm 50 years old, but I plan to get my first driver's license to help my family."
- "I want to learn more English, get a US passport, continue my education, and get a job."
- "I want to get a childcare license to take care of children."
- "After finishing these classes, I want to study nursing."

CPC is so blessed by this partnership that transforms so many lives.



## Join CPC for the Carmichael 4th of July Parade

- Join other CPC people to view the Carmichael Fourth of July Parade in the shade! We are setting up the CPC canopy on the grass on the northeast corner of Palm and Fair Oaks Blvd.
- Wear your CPC T-Shirt if you have one, and bring something to sit on.
- The parade starts at 10:30 a.m. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

## ... Christmas in July ...

(continued from page 1)

families in need in our community every Christmas, providing assistance with gifts and groceries.

In the last two years, the ministry has been underfunded compared with the amount of assistance we as a congregation hoped to give. This has led to dipping into the Deacons' Fund, which we would like to maintain to provide emergency assistance to people in our church and local community.

That's where Christmas in July comes in. The Board of Deacons is hoping to keep our reach strong by starting

fundraising earlier and doing a more thorough job. Lots of us have a hard time being as generous around the holidays as we would like, and it's also easy to accidentally let opportunities to give pass us by when we are busy and frazzled. We are hoping you will have a little more flexibility and perhaps a little more mental space to answer our call



now, when the holidays still feel far off (though our ministry begins well before December).

Please consider giving a Christmas gift in July (and may-

be one in August, or September, or October, or November, or all of those). You can give online—there's a "give" button at the top of the church website, and if you click "donate now" on the giving page, there is a line item to donate money to the Christmas Gift Ministry. You can also donate in person using pew envelopes, by mailing a check to the church office with "Christmas Ministry" on the memo line, or by finding the deacons' Christmas in July table after church.

Thank you for continuing to support this beautiful and meaningful outreach to little children and their families living among us.

# Paving the Way and Parking Lot Construction Update

The parking lot construction and the solar system preparation are going well. Because of the April rainstorm, some unrelated soil density variations in the lot area, and the discovery of some underground AT&T and Carmichael Water District obstacles our completion date will now be around August 20.



Concrete curbs and lighting have been installed as work continues on the parking lot renovation project.

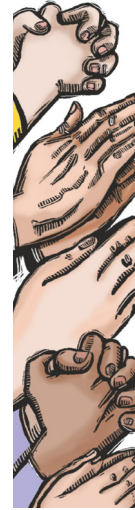
Asphalt paving should happen at the end of July followed by landscaping and finishing the solar

panel system.

The Paving the Way campaign results are outstanding. The campaign resulted in pledges of \$841,587 and at about

the halfway mark we've already received \$514,574. So, we're at 61% of the goal. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

# In Our Church Family



Please hold in your prayers these members of our faith community who have recently lost loved ones:

- **Bonnie Paxton** and family on the loss of her cousin, **Pete Fuller**, on May 30.
- the family of **Pat Chaney**, who passed away on June 15.

## Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast— Fun Before the Parade!

Carmichael Kiwanis, one of our community partners, is hosting its annual Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast at the Carmichael Park clubhouse from 7:00 - 11:00 a.m. before the Carmichael Fourth of July Parade. Tickets are \$5 per person! Join our Carmichael community at a fun—and tasty— event!



### Summer Sunday Seminar “Jerusalem, Holy City to Three Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam”

Sunday, July 19 at 11:15 a.m.

McMillen Hall

Jerusalem has long been called “the navel of the world,” and this ancient city, now the disputed modern capital of Israel, contains in and around its walls the remains of the Jewish Second Temple; the Islamic shrine called the Dome of the Rock as well as the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and nearby, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Mount of Olives, and Garden of Gethsemane.

Join Music Director Keith Atwater, retired Professor of Humanities and Religious Studies at American River College, for an “armchair tour” of these key places and their deep significance as found in archaeology, sacred texts (the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the holy Qur’an) and the faith, hopes, and dreams of millions.

## Presbyterian Women

# United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

by Terry Sakuda

Don't forget that in September of 2026, The Presbyterian Women will start a new Bible Study: *United in Christ, Bound for Each Other*, by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Lesson 1 of the Bible Study will be led by the Pastor starting on the second Thursday in September. Starting in October Lessons 2 through 9 will be led by the pastor via zoom on the second Thursday of each month through May of 2026.

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

Paul's First Letter to the

Corinthians (1 Cor 13:4,7; 12:27; 11:23-26)

“Love is Patient; love is kind...It bears all things, believes

all things, hopes all things.”

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

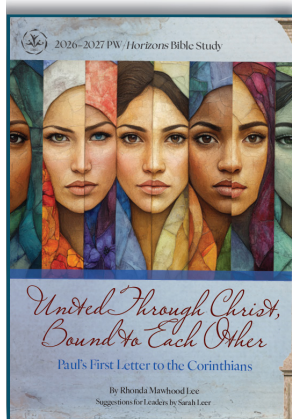
“The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given

thanks, he broke it and said, ‘this is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’”

We will discuss the doubts

the Corinthians had regarding Paul's letter and their hope that he could clear up these doubts.

If you are interested in the Bible study and would like me to purchase the book for you please contact **Terry Sakuda** at [terry.sakuda@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.sakuda@yahoo.com). The price per book is expected to be \$16. Terry will be ordering the books in July. All women and men as well are invited to enjoy this Bible Study. If you have any questions about this Bible Study or about the Mary Martha Circle you can contact **Kathy Daigle** or **Lisa Benadom**.



## 2026 Women's Retreat

by Sharon MacLean

It's not too late to sign up for this year's women's retreat. Plan to join us September 18-20 at the beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in Lake Tahoe for our annual Women's Retreat. Register soon so you don't miss out on this refreshing and fun weekend. Registration forms and full payment must be complete by August 1.

You can find a registration form online at <https://carmichael-pres.org/event/womens-retreat/> or pick one up at the church office or the registration table on Sundays. Payment may be made online or by check payable to CPC.



The cost is \$225 per person, which includes accommodation, meals, and activities. For women ages 18 and up. Carpooling is available. If cost is a factor or you have any questions at all, please reach out to **Sharon MacLean** at [sharmac617@gmail.com](mailto:sharmac617@gmail.com).

# Beware of Scams Targeting Elders

by Cathy Wride

As I have grown older, I have witnessed tremendous technological advances, from cell phones to the internet. Much of this progress has improved our lives, helping us stay connected with family and friends and giving us instant access to information. I enjoy being able to research products, learn new things, and access knowledge that once required a trip to the library.

Unfortunately, this convenience has also created opportunities for scammers. Personal information such as our names, phone numbers, and addresses is often readily available online, making it easier for criminals to target unsuspecting people.

Over the years, I have encountered several scams myself and have known others who have suffered serious financial losses. Awareness is one of our best defenses.

One day, I received a call claiming I had won \$18 million from Publisher's Clearing House. For a brief moment, I was excited. Then the caller explained that I needed to pay taxes before receiving my winnings. Suspicious, I contacted Publisher's Clearing House directly and learned that they never notify winners by phone

or email. Legitimate winners are notified in person. The call was a scam.

Another time, after discussing ways to lower our Comcast/Xfinity bill, I received a call offering a 50% discount if we paid six months in advance. The catch? I had to purchase Target



gift cards and send them to the caller. That immediately raised concerns. When I contacted Xfinity, they confirmed there was no such promotion. The scammer even had my name, address, and account number.

Sadly, not everyone is so fortunate. A friend received an email claiming she had inherited money from a distant relative overseas. To collect the inheritance, she was told to pay taxes and legal fees. She mortgaged her home to do so and ultimately lost her money.

Another woman was persuaded to withdraw \$90,000 and deposit it into a Bitcoin account in exchange for a promised \$7,000 per month for life. By the time her family was contacted, the money was gone.

Scammers use many tactics. A friend in Hawaii was told there was a bench warrant for her because she had

missed jury duty. It was a scam. Fraudulent IRS calls are also common. The IRS does not demand payment by phone; they communicate through official letters.

I even experienced a rental scam firsthand when someone falsely advertised my condominium for rent. A woman arrived with a key and a deposit receipt, believing she had legally rented the property. She was another victim of fraud.

Other common scams include online romance scams and fake alerts claiming unauthorized charges on bank, PayPal, or credit card accounts. Never call the phone number provided in these messages. Instead, contact the institution directly using a verified number.

If you are targeted by a scam, report it to the AARP Fraud Helpline (877-908-3360), your bank, local law enforcement, or the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov). Block suspicious callers and talk to trusted family members or friends.

My goal is not to scare you, but to encourage caution and awareness. By staying informed and helping protect our loved ones, especially seniors, we can reduce the risk of becoming victims of fraud.

# One Afghan Woman's Story of Transformation

I am an illiterate woman from a faraway forgotten village in Afghanistan. I never went to school. I never even dared to imagine that someone like me could go to school. Reading and writing my name was something I thought only belonged to other people's lives—not mine.

After coming to the US, life was even harder. I felt trapped and in complete darkness. Most days, I would sit for hours, crying silently. I didn't want to leave the house, I avoided neighbors, I avoided life. The world outside scared me, and inside I felt like I was fading away.

On top of the deep loneliness and culture shock I faced in a new country, I was suffering from unknown medical problems. I would hear my family whispering the word 'cancer' when talking about me. But I couldn't understand the doctors. I didn't have the words. The medical world felt like a locked door I couldn't open. So I stopped trying. I missed so many appointments, believing there was no point. Nothing was helping. Nothing made sense. I would lie on the floor in the dark with the curtains drawn, crying, waiting—honestly, waiting to die. My children, too young to understand, were always around me. My 3-year-old

daughter would gently kiss my forehead and bring me whatever medicine she could find in the house. That small act of love broke my heart even more. I wanted to get better for her. But I had no strength left. I was quietly preparing to leave this world.

Then one day, someone knocked on my door. It was my neighbor. She noticed that she never saw me outside. When my children told her I was sick, she stepped inside and spoke to me about World Relief's Afghan Women's Program. I said "no" right away. I didn't have the energy, the will, or the hope. A few weeks later, she knocked again, this time more insistent. She believed this program could help me. I said "no" again. I didn't believe anything could help me. My husband, overhearing our conversation, asked the neighbor what the program was about. She described the English classes and the integration classes and spoke of them with such passion, like they had changed her life. My husband encouraged me to try. I turned to him and said, "I'm dying, and you want me to learn a whole new language? That's not going to happen."

But somehow, he convinced me. I showed up to enroll in

the program, quiet and broken. I logged into the Zoom classes three times a week as required, camera off, saying nothing. I felt invisible. But the teachers didn't let me stay that way. Their kindness, their love, and the stories we shared in class began to reach me, little by little. And then, something small but beautiful happened: I smiled. And from the corner of my eye, I saw my 3-year-old daughter smile back at me.

That moment felt like life coming back.

In the World Relief program, we talked about self-care, about healing and wellness. I started walking outside. I went to the park, I breathed fresh air again. And now, I never miss my daily park time. Yes, I still face medical issues. Yes, I still struggle financially. But I'm no longer lying in the dark. I am standing, I am walking, and I am fighting. The lessons on navigating healthcare—learning the difference between the emergency room, urgent care, regular doctor visits, and how insurance works—changed everything. I finally understood what was happening with my own health. I could advocate for myself. I'm both happy and heartbroken that the program is ending. It has been a light in my darkest

(continued on page 9)

# More Resource Center Books

by Doris Beckert

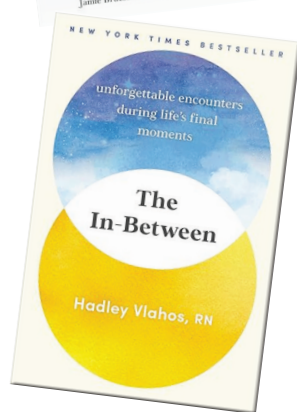
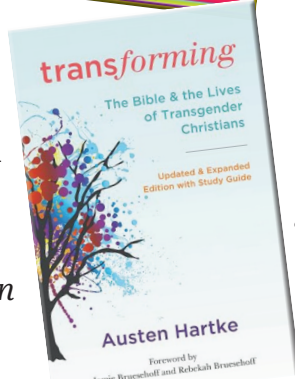
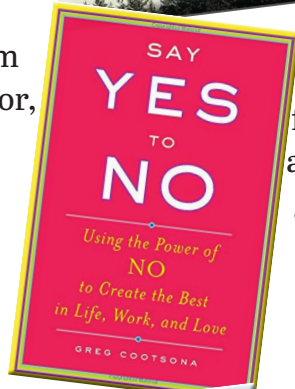
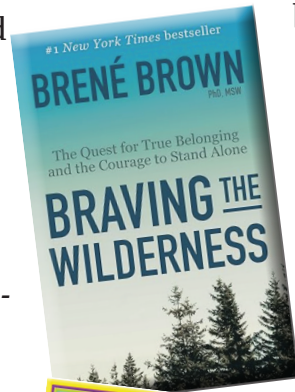
Here is the second installment of the books chosen from the Presbytery Resource Center, which is now closed.

- Brene Brown, *Braving the Wilderness* (305.8)

Another title from this best selling author, this one is about belonging and courage to stand alone. The library also has her *Dare To Lead*.

The following three books are by Gregory Cootsona, a pastor at Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico.

- *C.S. Lewis and the Crisis of a Christian* (230.092)
- *Creation and Last Things; at the Intersection of Theology and Science* (231.7)
- *Say Yes to No; Using the Power of No to Create the Best in Life, Work, & Love* (248.4)
- Hilary Brand, *Chocolate for Lent* (242.34)  
This title resonated with me



because I had given up chocolate for lent! It is a study guide and discussion to go along with the movie of the same name. The author maintains that fiction can teach us truths. This one is about change.

Other donations from various individuals are:

- Mark Lloyd Syres, *For Dear Life* (231.7) The father of baby Charlotte, for whom our congregation has been praying, has written about her heart problem and the year long wait for a transplant.
- Austen Hartke, *Transforming* (261.8) The subtitle says it all: the Bible and the lives of transgender Christians.
- Hadley Vlahos, *The In-Between* (616.2) Tales from the bedsides of hospices where the author worked.

## ... One Story ...

(continued from page 8)

hour. Please, World Relief, keep serving women. This program is not just support—it is salvation for people like me.

And here's what this same client said at the end of this year: "I appreciate all the teachers giving me this opportunity and encouraging me to come back to the classes for another year. This year made a really huge difference with my learning. Last time was more about my emotions and confidence. This year I learned a lot, especially with my English. Today, I can say my last name and my address. I still have a lot of medical appointments and health problems—I had an appointment before class and I have one after. Now the difference is when I go to my doctor I answer the questions and fill out my forms. My husband worries I will not give the right information and stays behind me to make sure I give the right information, but I always give the right information. And I look forward to coming back for a third year! (I have all my teachers' phone numbers, so I will be contacting you!) I will miss seeing my teachers' faces every day.

Did we mention that she earned an award for near perfect attendance? Such transformation!

# Scuttlebutt

## News from CPC's Marinerships

### Companionship

June 6 was a lovely summer day to think about traveling. So the Companionship met in the DeVries Gathering Place to hear about the travels of our Music Director, **Keith Atwater**. First, because it was lunch time, we shared a variety of salads: pasta varieties, fresh fruit, green, and many other delicious salads. Following lunch, Skipper **Hal Millering** led our business meeting and introduced our speaker.

Keith came prepared with books and brochures and stories from four of his major travel destinations: Israel, Japan, India and South Africa. He noted similarities between Israel and California: Carmichael has the American River and Israel has the Jordan River, where many believers are baptized. The Sea of Galilee looks a lot like Clear Lake. The Walled City could be compared to Sutter's Fort. Jerusalem is a holy city to followers of Islam, and Jews, and Christians. Places of worship for all three religions are found throughout the city.

We learned that Keith used to teach Asian Religions at American River College, and his son was fascinated by anime characters, so they went to Japan! Keith described seeing

Shinto priests, Mt. Fuji, Tori Gates, and one of the largest statues of Buddha in the world. His son was thrilled to ride the world's fastest train.

Keith also visited Bangalore, India, home to 17 million people, and known as the Silicon Valley of India. He saw many shrines to Indian gods and goddesses, and he also saw examples of the caste system there.

Keith's fourth trip was to Johannesburg, South Africa, a city surrounded by wine grapes, mountains, and forests. He toured the all-black township of Soweto, home to a million people, and was driven down the street with its small shacks past where Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela grew up. In Soweto he also toured the Apartheid Museum which is similar to the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles.

Future travel plans? He's joining a Viking Cruise lecturer and life-long friend for a 16-day cruise to Norway, Sweden,

Denmark, Poland, and Estonia in August so we won't see him in front of the Sanctuary!

### Mothership

On Friday, May 29, four Mothership mamas gathered for happy hour at Cantina Azteca. Half of the small group imbibed in an alcoholic beverage; the other half enjoyed colorful



Some of the Mothership moms enjoyed happy hour together in May.

mocktails. Everyone enjoyed happy hour foods, and most importantly, spent some quality time sharing life's joys, challenges, and God's sense of humor. Everyone returned home at a decent time to ensure that children were safe and fed their dinners.

### Nautilus

The good ship Nautilus met on Saturday, June 13 at the DeVries Gathering Place. There were 16 members present with photos and stories of their past. The theme of the day was "Getting To Know You."

**Jan Olson** opened the meet-

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

ing with a prayer followed by a description of her move here from the Bay Area while in high school.

Some revelations of the day were:

- **Emily Moulton** just celebrated her 102nd birthday.
- **Jim Coe** was a spelling bee champion. Also his ancestors arrived at Plymouth 10 years after the Mayflower and resettled with fellow Swedes in New Amsterdam.
- **Charlotte and Dick Frink** have been married for 71 years.
- **Wayne Reimers** brought in his float tub that he uses for fly fishing. He also displayed a box of flies he tied and a sonar fish



Nautilus members spent time sharing their stories at their June meeting.

finder.

- **Thelma Wever** told an interesting tale of her two husbands.

During the meeting **Louissette Asmar** served everyone homemade cookies and brown-

## ... Scuttlebutt ...

ies. At the conclusion the crew sailed away for further adventures.

### Skipjacks

BINGO was the game of the afternoon when 11 Skipjacks met in the church parlor to vie for several lovely prizes that **Diane Instness** donated. The game was made more interesting by gamemaster **Doris Beckert** by having to match a certain design, like a T, a Z, an X, or just the 2nd and 4th lines across. Winners included **Tony Perrou**, **Carolee Roach**, and others. But not **Margo Scandella**, who had her entire card full with the exception of the final number that would have made an X. It was later called in the next game, but too late!



ies. At the conclusion the crew sailed away for further adventures.



Skipjacks played bingo at their June meeting.



of Faith Auction. Plans will begin soon for that elegant affair.

Our prayers of praise went to **Glenda Perrou** who is recovering quickly from her recent knee replacement. Other prayers were for the **Dick & Carole Jacobi** and for **Carolyn Biggers**, who just moved to Atria. We also prayed for baby **Charlotte Syres**, **Pattie Shaw's** grand-daughter. Pattie donated a copy of her son's book about Charlotte's health crisis to the church library. It is titled *For Dear Life* and is written by **Mark Syres**.

5645 Marconi Avenue  
Carmichael, CA 95608-4498

## CPC Represents at Sacramento Pride Parade



Six stalwart CPC members, Rory Phillips, Misty Dunn, Jami McCray, Kathy Lewis, Elise Treon, and Caron Treon joined with several other churches through SARFA (Sacramento Area Rainbow Faith Alliance) to march in the Sacramento Pride Parade on June 14.



## 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

