



2019-2020  
Annual Report

October 25, 2020

Be Loved. Love God. Love Others.

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## SENIOR PASTOR

Dear CPC family,

What a year it has been! Just months into 2020 ministry, we were hit by COVID, interrupting our plans for 2020 as we sought God's new plan. God's faithfulness continues to reveal itself in unexpected and numerous ways.

We saw God's faithfulness with our finances. We ended the fiscal year in a strong fashion and are positioned to head into 2021 able to fully support our mission partners near and far as well as the multiple ministries connected to CPC every day. Thank you for your generosity in partnering with us this past year.

We saw God's faithfulness with our staff. Luke, Amanda and Kris pivoted from our regular ministries and found creative ways to connect with kids and parents during COVID. They are now beginning to meet in smaller communities in safe and transformative gatherings. Luke's faithfulness to guide the Men's ministry has borne good fruit as well. Amanda's commitment to missional work pours through her. Dorothy pastored a variety of ministries both in-person and online. Her gifts to care for the hurting cannot be overstated and her commitment to our women's ministries has had a strong impact. Bob Spencer has handled the numerous challenges of this season with grace, commitment and efficiency. Abby has done a great job juggling the ever-changing realities of our Sunday services for both the traditional and contemporary services. Marilyn continues her faithful support administratively as well as actively serving those requesting help. Humberto and Ester spent time doing a deep clean while the campus was more empty than normal and are back to their full schedule with extra cleaning regimens in place. Several others served in a part-time capacity (Susan, Ben, Otto, Eun Ha, Patti and Cheryl) and bless us with their talents and heart for Christ.

This past year I've seen God's faithfulness in the elders and deacons the LORD has brought us. You have a generous group of committed deacons who see that needs are met as requests come in, especially as COVID has made the needs on the Peninsula even more visible. The food pantry, Wednesday meals, Ark in the Park and other ministries would not happen without our Deacons support. And your elders have faithfully sought the Lord not only in welcoming me as their new Pastor, but in their wise counsel as we adjusted to COVID realities. They are a committed group of Christ-centered women and men who truly are seeking to follow the Holy Spirit in every decision made. A special mention to outgoing elders, Betsy Conron, Jackie Kinney and Alain Claudel, for three years of faithful service.

As we seek to fulfill our mission and vision, everything we do is about glorifying God and making disciples. I am grateful for how God accomplished this through CPC and I am already praising God for what He will do in and through us as we humble ourselves before Him this next ministry year.

Serving Christ with you,  
**Tim Yee**  
 Senior Pastor

## SESSION

### DESCRIPTION

The Session of Carmel Presbyterian Church is currently composed of 11 ruling elders in active service and 3 pastors, The Rev. Tim Yee, Senior Pastor, The Rev. Dorothy Bentley, Associate Pastor – Second Half of Life, and The Rev. Luke Barnes, Associate Pastor – First Half of Life. Session Officers are the Moderator, The Rev. Tim Yee, and the Clerk of Session, who acts as Secretary. Susan Kuhlman is the current Clerk. Linda Masten served as Clerk through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Bylaws require that there be 9 to 12 elected ruling elders, who must be active Covenant Partners. They are selected by the Nominating Committee and are elected by Covenant Partners to serve for 3 years.

The following elders have completed their service on September 30<sup>th</sup>:

Class of 2020: Alain Claudel, Betsy Conron, Jaclyn Kinney, Greg Quiring

The current ruling elders are:

Class of 2021: John Derrick, Dean Gray, Susan Kuhlman (Clerk), Dan Silverie  
 Class of 2022: Becky Jones, Siska Larson, Frank Octigan, Greg Ogden  
 Class of 2023: Hans Hess, Greg Quiring, Mary Robinson

The Nominating Committee currently consists of an Elder Chair, Hans Hess, and members Matt Bell, Alain Claudel, Linda Myrick, Kyle Strutner, Deanna Tovar de la Vega, and Ed Young. Josh Warburg is the Deacon Representative to the Nominating Committee.

All Session meetings must be moderated by a Pastor. All members of the Session, including the Moderator, are entitled to vote. Stated Session meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Members who wish to meet with Session should send a request to the Moderator. The Session will then determine how the matter will be addressed. Minutes and official records, including membership rolls, are controlled by the Session. The Clerk is responsible for their preservation. The Session annually elects the Officers of the Corporation. Current officers are President Charlie Hayes, Vice-President Jaclyn Kinney, Secretary Susan Kuhlman, and Treasurer David Marsh.

#### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

2019 Covenant Partners as of October 1, 2019	288
2019-2020 Changes in the number of Covenant Partners	
New Covenant Partners	18
Death of Covenant Partners	-3
James Valentine, March 6, 2020	
Leslie Geyer, May 18, 2020	
Richard Nystrom, July 23, 2020	
Removed by own request or moved away	N/A
2020 Covenant Partners as of September 30, 2020	303

<u>BAPTISMS</u>	3
<u>CONFIRMATIONS</u>	11

**Susan M. Kuhlman**  
 CPC Elder and Clerk of Session

#### **FINANCE**

For a detailed Finance Report, please email our Church Administrator, Bob Spencer:  
[bspencer@carmelpres.org](mailto:bspencer@carmelpres.org).

#### **FOUNDATION**

The Carmel Presbyterian Foundation consists of 11 separate funds dedicated to assisting the church in local and worldwide endeavors beyond the operating budget of the Church. The latest fund recently established is a Memorial Fund in the name of Dick Nystrom for the purpose of providing funds for the Carmel Presbyterian Church Men's Ministry and for scholarships for Carmel Presbyterian Church youth retreats.

The Manse Fund will be used to assist Pastor Tim with housing. Other funds continue to be used this year to fund seminary tuition and books for two staff members. Other funds were used to provide for internships for seminary students at Carmel Presbyterian Church.

The Foundation also used to furnish loans for The Presbytery dismissal and to Canvass for the church remodel.

MEMBERS

David Marsh  
Linda Myrick  
Linda Masten

Dean Gray  
Eric Holk  
Bob Spencer

FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET

*As of September 30, 2020*

ASSETS

## Current Assets

UBS Investment Accounts	643,624.21
Other Current assets	
Current Portion Note Receivable Canvass	6,681.95
Current Portion Note Receivable-Dismissal	21,709.44
Total Other Current Assets	28,391.39

Total Current Assets 672,015.60

## Other Assets

Long Term NR-Canvass	1,255,442.85
Long Term NR-Dismissal	54,050.88
Total Other Assets	1,309,493.73

Total Assets 1,981,509.33

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity 1,981,509.33

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,981,509.33

**David Marsh**  
Foundation Board Member

**DEACONS**Members:

Moderator: Donna Fast (10/19-6/20) & Mary Randall (7/20-9/20)

Pastor Liaison: Dorothy Bentley

Class of 2020 Donna Fast (resigned 7/20), Carolyn Hayes, Taylor McCormick, Valerie Quiring

Class of 2021 Joanna Bull, Kurt Ferguson, Rob Larson, Mary Randall

Class of 2022 Rob Larson, Daisy Noguera, Josh Warburg

Overview:

The Deacons serve in two ways - CPC Covenant Compassion relating to those who regularly attend our church and Community Compassion that assists those on the Monterey Peninsula.

Covenant Compassion:

~ Prayer – First Wednesday Prayer service, quarterly Prayer Café and fall 2020 Prayer Study (*Fresh Wind Fresh Fire*) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings.

~ Memorial Services – Receptions provided by Deacons as requested.

~ Encouragement – sending cards and flowers.

~ Meals – utilizing MealTrain to provide food for those in our congregation in need.

~ Visitation – visits to those who are shut-in and unable to attend church or are hospitalized.

### Community Compassion:

- ~ Christmas Angel Project – CPC provided gifts for approximately 90 children at Highland Elementary School in Seaside through the Community Partnership for Youth.
- ~ Lent Kinship Center Project – Coordinated all CPC project to provide car seats and diapers for foster children. Deacons also provided 5 car seats.
- ~ COVID and Fire Projects:
  - Wednesday Dinner Program - Assisted with shopping, cooking, and delivering meals to those who lost their jobs. Financially contributed \$200 per week.
  - Contributed financially to Todd Fisher fire victim feeding program.
- ~ Current monthly support:
 

- Interim	\$200 per month
- Community Partnership for Youth	\$400 per month
- Greater Victory Temple After School Program	\$400 per month
- Compassion Pregnancy Center	\$400 per month
- Ark in the Park Homeless Ministry	up to \$400 per month
- Sister Martha Henry's Food Pantry	up to \$400 per month
- ~ Salvation Army – Partner with them to provide emergency housing/survival financial assistance.

**Mary Randall**  
CPC Deacon

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee (NC) provided Session with a slate of 2023 Elders, Deacons and Members for the next NC by July 11. This year, only three Elders were recommended. This is consistent with the by-law amendment voted by Covenant Partners last year.

This year's process was fraught with challenges due to the SARS-cov2 pandemic. It appears that there is a significant pool of potential leaders at CPC. Many excellent candidates were approached, but the timing in their life was not optimal.

### 2019-2020 MEMBERS

Pastor Tim Yee: Ex-officio

Alain Claudel: Elder Chair

Matt Bell: Former Elder, Vice Chair

Taylor McCormick: Deacon Representative

Amy Spencer, Bill Fast, Linda Myrick, Deanna Tovar de la Vega, Ed Young: Voting Members

### Process and Timeline:

Meeting were initially held the second Wednesday of the month until the decision was made, in concert with Session Clerk and Pastor Tim, March 23rd to hold meetings via videoconference.

January through March 2020: Review requirements for each position, obtain updated lists of Covenant Partners, review timeline.

March: Initial list of candidates and ranking of the candidates.

April: Review ECO tenets and outline questions for interviews of both returning and new candidates.

May: Interview of candidates (mostly by phone or Zoom).

June: First draft of slate.

July 11: Full slate communicated to Session.

July 26: Congregational Meeting via Zoom and vote. The Covenant Partners accepted the slate of nominees and voted them into office

Elected Elders:

Greg Quiring (returning)  
Mary Robinson  
Hans Hess

Elected Deacons:

Carolyn Hayes (returning)  
Valeri Quiring (returning)  
Carl Roetter

Nominating Committee:

Matt Bell  
Alain Claudel  
Linda Myrick  
Kyle Strutner  
Deanna Tovar de la Vega  
Josh Warburg (Deacon Rep)  
Ed Young

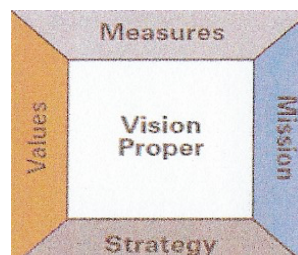
**Alain Claudel**  
CPC Elder

## **VISION & DISCIPLE MAKING COMMITTEE**

Greg Ogden, Chair

Members: Scott Hulme, Erica Strutner, Simon Bull, Greg Quiring, Donna Fast (prior to her move to FL), and Pastor Tim Yee (ex officio)

With the coming of our new pastor, Rev. Tim Yee, in September of 2019, it was deemed important to refresh the vision in ministry at CPC. A committee of Session was approved under my leadership. With the aid of the consulting organization, Auxano, represented by Shawn Reilly, we have been developing what is call a Vision Frame as pictured below.



As with everything under COVID our plans had to be changed from an in-person visit by our consultant for a day and a half kick-off to bimonthly meeting on Zoom two hours at time. Our first step was to engage what is called The Kingdom Concept. This led us to look at our local environment and ministry challenges, and assess the resources (people and otherwise) to address these. Since then, we have crafted a one sentence mission statement. This was followed by engagement between the committee and our entire staff team to formulate the values upon which our ministry rests. As of this writing, we are tackling the third side of the frame, which is turning our mission and values into a strategy. The strategy is the pathway for growing maturing and reproducing disciples of Jesus. The final step is to create the measures that would be critical for success. Ultimately, this work must be approved by the Session as a whole. We trust that this refreshed vision will provide a wonderful picture of what the Lord is calling CPC to be about in this next era of ministry. Hopefully, each of us will be able to see the part that we are called to play in this era of CPC ministry.

**Greg Ogden**  
CPC Elder

## **WORSHIP**

As you know personally and have read (and will continue to read) in this Annual Report, this season of 2019-2020 feels like two drastically separate years. The end of 2019 brought with it a glorious celebration of our Savior's birth, full of rich music and musical traditions through Advent and Christmas Eve. We entered 2020 with anticipation of what God had in store for CPC as we started a new year with a new senior pastor. On the traditional side of worship, we were coming off of the musical mountain top of Christmas Eve and were beginning to prepare for Holy Week, culminating on Easter Sunday. On the contemporary side of worship, we were actively searching for an additional worship leader to join our team. Then, we hit March.

These past 7 months have brought a lot of upheaval to all of our lives and including our worship, which, biblically speaking, should be our whole lives (Romans 12:1). Each of us have had our regular rhythms of corporate worship interrupted and altered. We have been challenged to worship corporately on a virtual platform from our own homes with our families or alone. We have been challenged to worship outside (and inside) in smaller numbers with masks and social distance. The very act of singing in groups, a core part of our corporate worship, puts every participant at a higher risk of infection. And yet, I know God wastes nothing. What if God uses this season to reveal our reliance on corporate worship as our only worship throughout the week, our box-to-check so to speak? What if He uses it to mold hearts that worship Him all the time, or at least more often? God has convicted me personally of my own worship and my family's worship throughout the week, not just on Sundays.

My heart and soul long to worship God through music more freely as He has created me to do and love. I know some of you will resonate with that longing. I miss the choir and the band. I miss our fellowship and the music we make to the glory of God. However, He is so good and is working patience into my heart. He is teaching me contentment in simplicity. God is leading us through this time. Yes, logistics are different outside and we are limited in what we can safely do in corporate worship. For months this summer, every Sunday was a different challenge in coordination. And yet, we have faithfully been able to worship the Lord together, whether physically together or not. I am thankful for the consistency we have had for September and into October, even though that consistency is different than the beginning of 2019.

I look forward to being able to restart our choir and band, to begin rehearsing and leading in worship together when it is safer to do so. I am continually blessed to serve with amazing musician volunteers and part-time staff who know and love the Lord, and love to express that love in song. I will miss Bill Fast's leadership with the ensemble, as he and Donna retired to Florida this summer. I know God will provide opportunities for all of us to make music together soon. I am thankful for Karissa Lee's worship leadership at the 11:00 service that she is gracious to share with us, made possible by this pandemic and school being remote. God only knows when our corporate worship will change again, but I trust Him and He alone is sovereign!

What I closed with last year still rings true – "This time of year, I look forward to all that God has in store for us at CPC, especially as we prepare for the upcoming Advent season. My prayer each year is that God would prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of our King in joyful and jubilant song!"

**Abby Warburg**  
Minister of Worship

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

This last year in the Children's Ministry was one for the books! We were able to watch God work through these kids in so many different seasons of their life; and that was incredible. We started off the first part of the year with a wonderful influx of kids on both Sundays and Wednesdays and ended the year with virtual gatherings allowing us to see God work through kids that don't typically participate in-person.

We kicked off the 2019-2020 school year with a back to school Fiesta and launched our CPC Bucks program. Kids earned bucks for memorizing scripture and by bringing their Bible, Bible bag, and a friend. Our CPC Kids shop was open one Wednesday a month for kids who were eager to spend their CPC bucks on fun prizes. This was a huge hit for the kids and helped keep their excitement for attending church each Wednesday.

On Sundays, we transitioned from having volunteers teach K-5th to myself teaching K-5th. This helped give the kids the consistency they needed so they could feel more comfortable engaging in the lessons. We held some fun family events such as our advent party, ice skating, and family bowling. It was so fun to watch our families gather in fun times of fellowship.

The end of the year for our children's ministry was very different, more than we could have ever imagined! We switched from in-person to online and it was very sad to have to cancel all my summer events. Despite that, God was still faithful and provided us with new ways to interact with the kids on a much deeper level. I had



deep conversations with kids who would have blended into the background at an in-person event. We were able to Zoom with kids on Wednesdays and Sundays and empathize with them as they expressed confusion and frustration with the situation. We switched gears from big events to small gatherings and we were able to start two new small groups of 4th and 5th grade girls. Personally, the highlight of my summer was just getting to know these girls and being able to cultivate a sweet friendship with them.

God is so faithful, and has taught me that we can make whatever plans we want, but His plans are always best and this ministry is 100% His. I am very grateful for the knowledge and love that I've gained in this ministry and I look forward to being able to share God's love with the kids in this coming year.

**Krisandra (Kris) Diaz**  
Children's Ministry Lead

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY**

By the grace of God, our middle school ministry continues to flourish and grow students closer to Jesus. Through our regular weekly activities, camps, and spending time with students, we see lives changed and are blown away by what the Lord is doing in these middle schoolers. Although COVID changed how we do things, ministry, and faith development continued to progress in students' lives.

The first half of the year was spent in our normal rhythms, providing two opportunities to meet on campus: Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm, for fun games, fellowship, prayer, and a teaching from the Bible; Sundays at 11am, the students begin by worshipping through music with our entire church family, and are then dismissed to their own age-appropriate time of teaching and fellowship. Both of those times were structured with The Story curriculum by Max Lucado. They provided students with engaging insights into the grand narrative of the bible. While Wednesdays were a broader overview, Sundays provided a more in-depth discussion amongst the students and leaders. We also incorporated some monthly events, including game nights, movie nights, and girls' group events throughout the year. We thankfully were able to attend Hume Lake's winter camp in late January. We saw many students have breakthroughs in their faith.

The second half of the year uprooted many rhythms like camp and in-person activities; however, Jesus remained faithful in keeping students rooted in Him. This rootedness was evident through one student named Harper. The first time Harper attended youth group in late January when he signed up for Houseboats. A month and a half later, we had moved youth group to Zoom. Harper had only been a handful of times before zoom youth group; however, he was our most faithful middle schooler in attendance. He showed up online every week and was engaged in scripture and discussing his faith. Harper's commitment to youth group taught me the importance of remaining faithful in the small things, while God works out the bigger matters. In the most unexpected circumstances with the most unexpected students, God was on the move.

This year's vision in middle school ministry continues to be one of planting and watering seeds in the lives of students. In summer and fall, the middle school group has returned to meeting together in person with masks. We even have two new high school volunteers and a few new students. May God continue to do a new thing through the seeds planting during this season. Thank you for your support and prayers!

**Amanda de la Vega Tovar**  
Minister to Students

## **HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY**

CPC High School Ministries Group continues to serve students primarily from Stevenson School, Santa Catalina School, Pacific Grove High School, and Carmel High School. It is our honor to disciple high school students and partner with God to spread the Gospel. The stories of transformation continue to encourage the staff and inspire us to reach out to our community who desperately need to know the love, peace and joy that can only come from Christ.

As you know, life has been flipped upside down this year. Our ministries have had to adapt quickly in order to meet the new needs of our people. Towards the beginning of the pandemic, we immediately shifted everything online. This was met with limited success. Most students did not want to spend all day in virtual school and then attend virtual youth group or small group. But those who did show up were very faithful. We noticed a significant trend as the smaller group of students were wanting to go deeper in their faith. This lasted for several months until August.

In August, our high school students began meeting outside at a house in mid-valley. This serene and wide-open setting has provided a welcome return for in-person community. We have been meeting from 6pm-7:30pm on Wednesdays. We often enjoy a meal together, worship through song, share prayer requests, and hear what God has to say through the Bible. It has been amazing! The students absolutely NEED this in their lives, and we feel so blessed to facilitate it for them.

Another major highlight from this year has been our Confirmation Course. 13 students were paired with adult mentors in our church. Even in the midst of all of the chaos, they continued through the program and were confirmed on the patio in July. It was a joyous occasion as 3 students were baptized and many family members and friends were there to support these young disciples.

Unfortunately, our summer trips were cancelled, but we are quite certain that Jesus can do miraculous things right here at home in Carmel. Indeed, He already has. I will end with this story of hope. Before the lockdown a senior in high school began attending our youth group for a few weeks. Once the schools began switching over to virtual learning, she moved back to Oregon since she was a boarder at Catalina. Every Wednesday, she would join our youth group on Zoom (even one time while she was at work). Amanda has been discipling her ever since and just recently reported back to me that this young woman is on fire for the Lord as she enters her freshman year of college.

We don't know exactly how this year, this month, or even this upcoming week is going to look. But we do know that Jesus is on the throne and He is going to do amazing things in our midst.

**Luke Barnes**  
1<sup>st</sup> Half of Life Pastor

### **FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Family Ministry Committee began meeting monthly starting in April 2020. The committee is charged with ensuring that Christ-centered, biblical programming is in place with goals of discipling families of CPC, as well as reaching out to non-believers. The hope is to grow more and deeper followers of Jesus and to spread His love throughout the community.

The committee reached out to CPC families with a survey, in order to better understand their needs, particularly during this time of COVID-19. Responses to the survey helped inform our decisions on programming and resources. We sent out "The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family" by Dr. Kara Powell and "Foundations" by Ruth Chou Simons to families that were interested. We also offered a one-time Zoom session called Birds and Bees for parents to learn about how to discuss "coming of age" topics with their children. We just finished a 5-week "Sticky Faith" Zoom series for parents to learn about discipling their children in an effort to increase the likelihood that their faith "sticks" into adulthood.

The Family Ministry Committee is made up of: Jackie Kinney, Luke Barnes, Valerie Quiring, Kati Yee, Ben Bransford, Ben Palone, Amanda De La Vega Tovar, Kris Diaz, and Bibiana Silva. I am thankful for the efforts of each of these devoted members. We continue to pray for the families of CPC and are encouraged by the growth of new and stronger disciples of Jesus. Praise be to God!

**Jackie Kinney**  
CPC Elder

## SECOND HALF OF LIFE (SENIORS) MINISTRY

When I wrote last year's report, I ended it by saying, "I look forward to the coming year to see all that the Lord has in store for CPC". From October until mid-March my ministry continued as it had in past years. Flourishing!

There's not a person on the planet who could imagine what 2020 would be like! Despite incredible challenges our "Second Half of Life Ministry" which encompasses about a 40-year age span has managed to adapt in a variety of creative ways. Classes (Sunday morning Gathering) and small groups transitioned to Zoom immediately – and are thriving as our church family continues to grow in faith. Several in the Second Half of Life again served as mentors for teens in the youth confirmation program. Although not able to meet for our monthly lunches – the Friendship Circle planning team committed to participating in CPC's Wednesday Night Meal program once a month for August, September and October.

Providing pastoral care has proven a challenge since March. Rather than personal visits, I've sent monthly "Encouragement" emails, made scores of phone calls, send oodles of e-cards and text messages! Providing emotional support is a priority – particularly to those who are alone. Many do not have family in the area or live in retirement places that have essentially locked down. I am grateful to Dr. Lance Alexander and Alain Claudel. Their working at CHOMP has allowed them to visit those from CPC who have been hospitalized. I am blessed and appreciate serving on the Session and as pastor liaison to the Deacons.

As we look to the future, my unwavering trust rests in the Lord's sovereignty – not just for CPC, but for our community, our country ... the world!

**Dorothy Bentley**  
Associate Pastor

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

It is a privilege to serve with a committed, gifted and amazing team of women for the past two years as I have coordinated Women's Ministries. We have worked together to provide many opportunities for women to grow closer to Jesus and each other!

Women's Bible Studies: Bible studies designed for women that transitioned in March from meeting at the church to Zoom include:

Tuesday morning – Studies this past year have included Hebrews, "The Lamb of God – Jesus in the Old Testament", I Peter and 1, 2, and 3 John led by Valerie Quiring and Mary Randall.

Wednesday/Thursday evening – Topical studies are led by Siska Larson and Mary Robinson. After a summer break, they began a new study the first of October.

Thursday morning: Women in the Word (WITW) has a strong legacy as a robust ministry to women of all ages and Biblical knowledge. Over the past year, the group has studied Job, Matthew, The Fruit of the Spirit and recently launched the fall study "Prayers of the Old Testament". Donna Fast has led WITW in recent years with a dedicated team of small group leaders – including facilitating the transition to Zoom in March. Since her move to Florida, Paige Roetter and Jane Whitman are leading with that dedicated team. The fall study launched on October 1<sup>st</sup> with over 90 ladies on Zoom divided into small groups.

Women's Small Group: A variety of small groups meet weekly designed specifically for women.

Spring Retreat: On the weekend of March 6-8, approximately 50 women gathered at Mount Hermon with the theme "The Joy of Belonging" and guest speaker, Beth Allin. Little did we know when we said goodbye on that Sunday morning it would be the last time we would all be openly together!

Carmel Women's Book Club: The Book Club continues to meet monthly on Wednesday at noon on Zoom. Ladies from all walks of life continue to attend as they discuss the book read and provide a bridge to questions related to faith. Susan Kuhlman, Lynne Holt and April Hess lead the club.

**Dorothy Bentley**  
Associate Pastor

### THE GATHERING PLACE

The Gathering Place Class continues to provide a place for new church attendees and seasoned ones to connect with others and engage in a significant discussion about the Scriptures. During this year, the topics covered in the class have included I, II and III John, Colossians and I and II Corinthians in which we are still engaged. During this period, we had several luncheons which featured the testimonies of Elders Greg Quiring and Becky Jones. Although the COVID-19 pandemic hindered our gathering from meeting in person after the first month of not meeting, we began to meet via Zoom which has continued to be our approach until the present time.

**Dean Gray**  
CPC Elder

### SATURDAY AM MEN'S MEETING

We began last fall with a study of Old Testament heroes. We were blessed to have some younger men begin to attend and contribute. We were sad to lose our leader, Kert Hultgren, who moved to Colorado near his daughter. Not having him in our meetings was sorely felt by all.

We have, however, been strengthened by adding some great men to our teaching staff. Ben Bransford has added a new and younger perspective to our study of the Word. Our teachers now include, Ben Bransford, Simon Bull, Dean Gray, Mark Campbell, Pastor Luke Barnes, occasionally Pastor Yee and Jim Slentz (substitute).

The COVID pandemic touched us as it did most aspects of church life. Once we started meeting via Zoom, some of our men opted not to tune in. It did, however, have a silver lining in that many men of our congregation who live out of town either part time or full time were able to join us on a regular basis. As a result, our weekly attendance went from around 25 to almost 40. There are plans now to continue our Zoom capabilities when we are able to meet in person again.

We began studying the book of Matthew at the first of the year. With our expanded teaching staff, it has been both inspiring and challenging.

Yours in His service,  
**Jim Slentz**  
Sat. AM Leader

### DISCOVERY HOUR

Under normal circumstances, the Discovery Hour Class meets Sundays at 11am in the Upstairs Conference Room. Attendance numbers have changed this year due to changes in circumstances in the long-time members of the class - either moving out of the area, or moving home to be with the Lord. As a group, we encourage new attendees and have met some new participants this year.

The central focus of the class is to study Scripture. We do this by going through a book of the Bible exegetically or studying a topic as it appears in different parts of the Bible. As the pandemic brought a screeching halt to all things normal, we were in the midst of studying cults, in order to have a better understanding of what we believe and why; and how it differs from some of the more popular false religions around us. The plan is to pick up where we left off, then move back into a book of the Bible for the next season.

We have chosen to suspend the class until we can meet again face to face. God willing, that will be soon.

**Caron Octigan**  
Discovery Hour Coordinator

## PERSONNEL

Greetings:

It would be an understatement to say that this past year has been challenging, unprecedented, and for many a time of anxiousness. It also has been a season of challenge where we learn how good God is, how he provides the wisdom, patience, and strength that life's challenges require.

We are immensely grateful for the staff and leadership that God has afforded us. As they have worked to overcome the challenges of ministry this year, we all look toward 2021 with anticipation of growth and recovery of activities, relationships, and outreach / caring to our community.

In the coming year, give thanks for the staff and leadership that we have, pray that God will guide them so that they can guide us better, and ask God how you can serve in this joint mission that we have at Carmel Presbyterian.

**John Derrick**  
CPC Elder, Chair of Personnel Committee

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee is so grateful that CPC continued to extend financial support and prayers to our 30 missionaries in 3 different areas: **church planting, discipling and service.**

In the fall, we added to the number of missionaries that we support with Nathaniel Wood, who works with CRU- Inner City, Los Angeles, and Marcos Prudencio, who works with SEPAL, Brazil. However, the Missions Committee also had to part with two of our missionaries; Caroline De Palatis, who decided to retire from her work with ISI in February, and Marjorie Dyer, who had worked for Tecate Mission for more than 20 years before she passed away in May. In June, one of Mission Committee members, Bill Fast, also left the committee for Florida after 7 years of valuable contribution to the committee.

This summer, we held several big events to connect our CPC-ers with missionaries, and to remind us all of the great commission given to us. The Missions Committee with the Prayer Team held a zoom Prayer Café on June 27, attended by 19 missionaries from the United States and other countries like Lebanon, and Brazil. We held Great Commission Week and Sunday from August 3-9, 2020. We had several different venues that connected our missionaries to CPC. We had missionaries who shared a devotional on August 3-8 that were posted on CPC website, some missionaries joined various small groups at CPC, and 23 missionaries shared their stories at a "Meet & Connect" zoom meeting on Saturday August 8. Great Commission Sunday was online, and one of our missionaries, Nabil Khoury, preached from Lebanon.

Praise God for all the committee members that devoted their time to the Missions Committee: Siska Larson, Bill Fast, Ed Young, Amanda Tovar de la Vega Tovar, Gene Zelmer, Susan and Gary Campbell. If you have a passion for missions and would like to be a part of the team, please send an email to [missions@carmelpres.org](mailto:missions@carmelpres.org). May God continue to bless our church and the impact our prayers, tithes, and offerings have around the world.

### **List of External Missions Support (missionary — organization — location)**

Dr. Bob Blincoe – Frontiers – International

Josue Campanha – Overseas Crusade International (SEPAL) – Brazil

Bob Chadwick – Pointman Leadership Institute – International

Jennifer Creamer – Youth With A Mission (YWAM) – India  
 Church Planters and Children's Bible Clubs – Mission India – India  
 Paul D. – Gathering by the Bay – International  
 Nancy Donat – International Teams – Fresno  
 Marcos Dos Santos – Mercy Ships – Africa  
 Marjorie Dyer – Tecate Mission – Tecate, CA. (passed away July 2020)  
 Kevin Ford – InterVarsity Christian Fellowship – M.I.T.  
 Maher Fouad – Partners International – North Africa & Middle East  
 Will Jordan – Frontiers – Asia  
 Nabil Khoury – Nabil Khoury Ministries – Lebanon  
 Andrew & Haley Lewis – Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) – Santa Barbara  
 Emily Lewis – Youth With A Mission (YWAM) – Circuit Riders - USA  
 Bonnie Mackenzie – Wycliffe Bible Translators – Papua, New Guinea  
 Christian Business Men's Connection (CBMC) – Monterey  
 Michael - Global Teams – Asia  
 Jacob Miller - Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) – Mozambique  
 Greg Ogden – Global Discipleship Initiative - International  
 Ariana Pappas – Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) – San Luis Obispo  
 Jeremiah Ratliff – Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Monterey Peninsula  
 Natalie Richards – Young Life – Monterey Peninsula  
 Jim & Debbie Samland – Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) – Eastern Europe  
 Caleb & Sonja Schut – Beautiful Response, Inc. – Africa  
 Philip & Corene Smith – Hope Unlimited – Brazil  
 John & Joyce Steers – International Students Inc. – Monterey Peninsula  
 Cahaya Suku – Partners International – Indonesia  
 Igor Yaremchuk – e3 Partners, Irpen Seminary – Ukraine  
 Nathaniel Wood – CRU- Inner City Los Angeles.  
 Marcos Prudencio – SEPAL – Brazil.

**Siska Larson**  
 CPC Elder

## PRAYER

### First Wednesday Prayer

We started out the year 2020 with our usual first Wednesday evening prayer at the church. During the Lent season, we met weekly. In March, we moved our prayer meeting to an online format using Zoom. We have an average of about 12 who attend.

**Prayer Wreath:** We continued to man the Prayer Wreaths for the months of January and February after the services to pray for the church or personal prayer needs.

**Prayer Cafe:** We had two quarterly Prayer Cafes this year. On February 8th, we spent time at the church praying for the world and missions with a special emphasis on human trafficking. We also did a "prayer walk" throughout the church campus. On Saturday, June 27th we had our Prayer Cafe via Zoom, attended by 19 CPC missionaries from around the world.

**Book Study:** On Wednesday, September 9th, we began our weekly book study on prayer. We are using a book by Jim Cymbala called *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire: What Happens When God's Spirit Invades the Hearts of His People*. About 12 of us are part of that group. I'm hoping that our church will experience God moving in a fresh way as we continue to make prayer a priority.

**Weekly Prayer Requests:** Each week, the church staff and prayer team pray over requests that have been sent in by church members. People now have the option to ask someone from the prayer team.

**Rob Larson**  
Prayer Ministry Coordinator & CPC Deacon

### **CONNECT COMMITTEE**

The Connect Committee is a new committee set up to create ways to warmly welcome visitors and first-time attenders to CPC.

Members are:

Becky Jones, Chair  
Dan Silverie, co-chair  
Tom Jones  
John Perkins  
Roberta Carlson  
Dean Gray

The initial meeting of this committee was on January 26, 2020. Ideas for connecting with visitors and first-time attenders to CPC were discussed. It was decided that the contact information of visitors and new attenders would be given to Becky Jones for a follow-up welcome phone call or email. These new attenders would then be invited to join the Connect Committee for a once a month Connect Café, which would take place in the Fellowship Hall between services. There, we would welcome them to CPC with coffee and snacks, answer their questions, give them a welcome bag and connect them to appropriate ministries at our church. The welcome bag would include information on CPC services and ministries, small group information, a bookmark with CPC service information, candy and a Starbucks card. The contact information of the attendees would then be given to the leaders of the appropriate ministries for follow-up.

Due to the restrictions of Covid-19, the Connect Committee has been unable to fulfill the plans agreed upon at that meeting.

**Becky Jones**  
CPC Elder, Connect Committee Chair

### **YELLOW BRICK ROAD BENEFIT SHOP**

YBR started off the church year with the honor of being named the Philanthropic Service Organization of the Year for 2019 in November. This award is presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Monterey Bay Chapter.

Sales and donations continued to grow and we surpassed \$900,000 in income for the first time in 2019. Then the pandemic caused us to shut down on March 17, 2020. We were able to keep all of our employees on staff and paid by the grace of God, receipt of a PPP loan and diligent oversight by the Board.

We reopened June 1<sup>st</sup> and have been going strong ever since. We executed well on following all of the required COVID-19 protocols and our shoppers are thrilled to be back. We are now able to give out \$59,000 in special donations for basic needs related to relief efforts for the recent fires and the impact of the pandemic shutdowns. Our total amount of grants, donations and scholarships now exceeds \$6.6 million.

Some of our volunteers have been unable to return due to health concerns. We would love to welcome some additional volunteers from our CPC family! Thank you again for your continued support of this vital CPC ministry and outreach to Monterey County.

**Jackie Graham**  
YBR President