



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2012

Volume LII Number 2

One Great Hour of Sharing April 1, 2012

One Great Hour of Sharing began after World War II in 1949.

The appeal was to help rebuild Europe and Asia after the devastation of war. The first year it was called One Great Hour and was supported by approximately 75,000 churches after people heard a radio appeal.

Today, eight denominations partici-

pate in One Great Hour of Sharing. Each denomination

32% to self-development of people, and 36% to the



Grants from the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) make a real difference in the lives of people like Pierre from Cameroon. Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering allowed PHP to make a difference through grants that change lives in this country and in countries around the world.

allocates the gifts differently. The Presbyterian Church divides those gifts as follows: 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,

Presbyterian Hunger Program. Recently, Presbyterians have given about \$10M annually. Just imagine what a blessing these gifts bring to people after a disaster or in times of hunger.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15) Please give generously!

Celebrating 10 Years of Planting Seeds of Faith

On March 25, our church family will gather for the 10th time to eat, laugh, share, and support our youth through the Planting Seeds of Faith Luncheon and Auction. Since the very first Planting

Seeds of Faith in 2003, this congregation has raised more than \$100,000 to send our youth on life-changing mission trips (see the article on

page 3 about this year’s trip), provide a week of fun and learning for hundreds of kids at Vacation Bible School, and give children the opportunity to experience God in

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Pastor Keith DeVries Writes:

Dust and Dirt and Stones!

It began with ashes being smudged on our foreheads and hearing the words, “*You are **dust** and to **dust** you shall return.*” Not the most pleasant words to hear on a Wednesday in February, but it was a day

for honest assessment of our lives and our relationship to God, a day when we acknowledged our sinfulness and asked God to create within us a new heart and to put a new and right spirit within us. It was a day that began for us the process of

reflecting, no matter how much we would rather not: reflecting and remembering where we have let down those we love the most, where we have let ourselves down, where we have let God down. Asking, “How is it possible that I could hurt someone I love so much? Forgive me, O Lord, and create within me a new heart.”

It continues now in the **dirt** of a long and difficult journey, a journey that takes us into the wilderness with Jesus. It is a place of testing, of being challenged, where our lives are at

risk and we are called upon to trust and depend solely on God. Tom Are Jr. says, “*The wilderness is anyplace where the teaching of Jesus seems foolish and other voices seem reasonable.*” It is a long trek of disci-

“This is our annual Lenten journey. It is a journey that takes time, lots of time; a journey filled with dust, dirt and stones.”

pleiship; of hearing Jesus’ call upon us to follow him, of walking and walking on a long, **dirty** and dusty road. It is a road

that confronts us with our worst fears, where our loyalty and faith are challenged, where we experience the exhilaration of encountering the one who changes everything, who challenges institutions, both religious and secular. It is a **dirty** road that takes us on a joyful parade that ends up as a funeral dirge.

Finally we encounter the **stones**; **stones** that are raised up as children of Abraham, **stones** that would cry out if the disciples were silent, and a **stone** that has been rolled away. This is our annual

Lenten journey. It is a journey that takes time, lots of time; a journey filled with **dust, dirt and stones.**

Ann Weems says,
“*Lent is a time to take the time, to let the power of our faith story take hold of us, a time to let the events get up and walk around in us, a time to intensify our living unto Christ, a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts, a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his word, a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us, a time to ponder and a time to wonder...*”

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

Get the latest info about what's going on at CPC!



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Presbyterian
Church
on Facebook!**

facebook.com/carmichaelpres

... Planting Seeds of Faith ...

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new ways at summer camp.

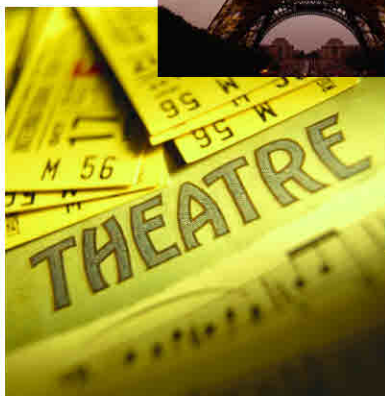
Tickets for this afternoon of fun are \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 3-12 and free for children under age 3. You can get tickets in the Gathering Place between services on Sundays or in the church office during the week. You won't want to miss this opportunity to bid on amazing items in the silent and live auctions and take a chance to win great prizes in the raffle!

The auction committee is hard at work planning another great event. Jackson Catering and Events will again provide a mouth-watering lunch and the auction is sure to keep you smiling as Pastor Keith uses his fast-talking skills to keep

those bids coming!

Here are just a few of the items available:

- Two tickets to the **Oregon Shakespeare Festival**



The 10th annual Planting Seeds of Faith auction features items for the traveler, sports enthusiast, theater buff, and wine lover, plus much more!

- **Wine Tasting & Tour for 30** at Byington Vineyard & Winery in Los Gatos
- Two night stay at **LeBristol Hotel in Paris, France**
- **Kindle Fire**

- Two night stay at **Club Donatello in San Francisco**
- Two season subscriptions to the **2012 Music Circus**
- **Dinner for Six with Don & Thelma Wever**
- Two orchestra section tickets to the **New York Philharmonic** in New York City
- Golf for four at **Northridge Country Club**
- Golf for four at **Sierra View Country Club**
- **Limousine, Amador County wine tasting, and lunch for 10**
- Your own reserved space in the **CPC parking lot**

There are a lot of wonderful items, but they still need your donations! If you have an

item to donate for the auction, please contact Allison Cagley (aecagley@comcast.net) or Lisa Torgerson (lisa@carmichaelpres.org or 486-9081). Donation forms are available in the church office.

Bid high and bid often!

High Schoolers Head to Portland for Mission

CPC's high school students and a dedicated group of adult leaders will head to Portland, Oregon March 31-April 7 for a different kind of mission trip. This adventure in urban missions is largely about equipping our youth to be engaged in mission in Sacramento following the trip. The hope is that Portland will be a partnership and learning environment that helps shape our vision of mission at Carmichael Presbyterian.

Why Portland? Our Director of Youth Ministry, **Jeremy**

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Welcome New Members!

During worship on February 12, it was our joy to welcome these new members:



Linda Cook



Susan Cippa



Joyce Cowan



Dennis Frye



Marie Frye



Erin Grimm



Todd Grimm



Gerri Hauser



Hal Holland



Kelly Holland



Charleen Lee



Gary Lee

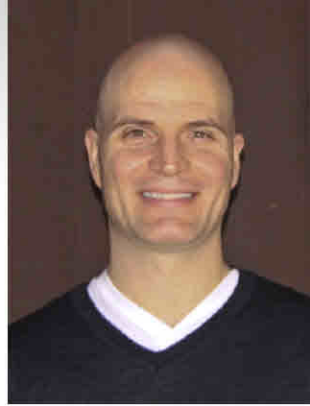
More New Members!



Ardith Lenneville



Kathy Lewis



Bert Stokes



Rae-Nani Stokes



Jim Warren



Joan Warren



Pat Warren



Barbara Wiesner



Kenneth Wiesner

Photos by Bruce & Sharon MacLean

All Church Workday



Saturday, March 31
8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.



Projects to be done include:

- ◇ General clean up around the campus
- ◇ Pruning, weeding, painting
- ◇ Washing windows and railings, removing cobwebs
- ◇ Dusting, vacuuming, polishing

Choose your task and bring equipment!

Buildings and Grounds Committee will have *some* equipment on hand.

Rain or shine – God’s house needs Easter-time attention!

Refreshments at Fellowship Time by the Nautilus mariners.

... High School Mission Trip ...

(Continued from page 3)

Meehan, and his wife, **Laura Meehan**, lived in Portland from 2004-2009 and were heavily involved in ministry in East Portland through Imago Dei Community Church. One of Jeremy’s close friends, an Imago Dei staff member, began Second Stories to transform depressed neighborhoods in outer SE Portland.

The partnership with CPC and Second Stories

is a natural fit. Sacramento and Portland have a lot in common when it comes to community needs and challenges of ministry. Additionally the caring ethos of CPC is already being demonstrated in so many ways here in Sacramento; our student ministry hope is to



build on the foundation already established and continue being with the people of Sacramento!

Who Are They Partnering With?

Stories of With is a ministry of Second Stories based in SE Portland Oregon. They are a faith-based, non-profit, community development corporation, focused on neighborhood transformation

in Portland and beyond. Their work is coming along side churches and service agencies, creating connections, enabling mutual understanding and collaboration. The hope is that what is learned in Portland will be transferred back to Carmichael. The needs in SE

Portland change from week to week. Students will largely be working to connect with people in the neighborhoods to improve their living environment and relationships. This means listening to their stories, connecting them with resources and literally working alongside them. Groups that they’ll likely work with include homeless youth, Somali refugees, women’s shelter residents and everyday people who are isolated from God and others.

How Can I Help?

The most important way to help is to pray for our youth as they prepare for the trip. You can help financially by attending (and bidding at!) the Planting Seeds of Faith auction on March 25. And be sure to ask our high school students about their preparations and find out more about their experiences when they return!

Fair Trade - Nicaragua

John Wallace was selected to be a member of a 12-person delegation to Nicaragua in January. The delegation was traveling to Nicaragua to meet with PCUSA mission workers at CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) and co-operative partners in fair trade products, i.e. coffee, honey, chili, pottery and T-shirts.

After spending Sunday at CEPAD headquarters in Managua, Nicaragua, learning about Nicaraguan economics, Equal Exchange, fair trade products in general and the PCUSA Hunger Program (PHP), the delegation traveled to the Boaco region of Nicaragua to begin learning about coffee production. Monday, Tuesday and part of Wednesday was spent in homestay arrangements with farmers who grow coffee for the Tierra Nueva Co-operative. The Presbyterian Church be-

gan its Coffee Project, supporting fair trade coffee through the PHP, in 2001. Our delegation had the opportunity to pick coffee from the tree and follow the manufacturing process of de-pulping, drying, milling, final bagging, roasting and quality tasting. Wednesday afternoon, the delegation traveled from Boaco to the Esteli region of Nicaragua



During his trip to Nicaragua, John Wallace picks coffee beans as part of a delegation learning about programs supporting Fair Trade coffee.

to learn about pottery manufacturing. Thursday was spent at the Taller de Ceramica Ducuali Grande Co-operative learning how 13 women started making exquisite pottery 23 years ago. It takes a month for these women to produce their pottery from raw clay through finished product.

After driving back to CEPAD Thursday night, Friday was spent with the Zona Franca Masili Sewing Co-

operative outside Nueva Vida, Nicaragua. Ten women began this co-operative in 1998 after Hurricane Mitch devastated their homeland. Their story is intriguing in how several went for business training so they could cope with the trials of product export and raw material import.

Each co-operative praised the benefits of operating as a "fair trade" organization and working in partnership with PCUSA. The delegation heard of the following benefits: being better organized, taking care of the land by working organically, getting better prices for their products, learning how to diversify, improved living standards for its members, and improved production. Each coffee farmer had a corrugated metal roof on their home in place of the typical leaky clay tile or plywood roof. Artisans were able to have money to get their children to school. Even though education is free in Nicaragua, the family must buy uniforms, books and transportation.

Give John another month to get his presentation together and then invite him for an evening of fair trade negotiations.

