



Carmel Courier

February, 2019

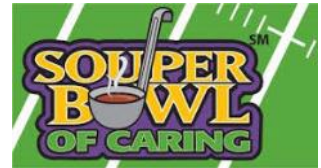
Carmel Presbyterian Church of Glenside, PA 19038-3099

What's happening at Carmel

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Souper Bowl of Caring
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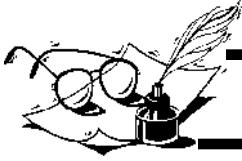
ADULT STUDY OPTIONS

Sundays of Lent:
“Church and
State” begins
March 10, page 3

Carmel Book Club: “Learning to Walk in the
Dark” begins Thursday, February 21, page 9

Ash Wednesday Supper and
Worship, March 6
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A Pastoral Message

CHURCH AND STATE: A CONVERSATION

A Sunday morning Lenten class

It's a well-known saying that "*the two things you should never discuss are religion and politics, because you're guaranteed to offend somebody.*" This class is an attempt to prove that the saying **isn't true**. For the six Sundays of Lent (March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14) we will be having a conversation about a wide variety of subjects related to politics or religion or both. The purpose of our time together is to listen and understand the positions of others with dignity and tolerance.

People from all sides of the spectrum on any of the issues are welcome – in fact, they're strongly urged to attend. Questions will be encouraged in order to understand where the person of a different perspective is coming from, but not to debate or belittle. If you don't believe you are capable of such restraint, please don't come. But it will be fascinating to hear and learn, if we're really willing to listen.

Topics will include, but not be limited to:

- The purpose of government
- The separation of church and state
- The Christian view of, and responsibility to, a secular government
- The first amendment



- The second amendment
- Individual freedoms versus communal responsibilities
- How ethical do we expect our government to be and why
- How do we decide what's right when church and state collide over ethical issues such as – abortion, homosexuality, welfare, etc.
- When is resistance to the government appropriate and what does that look like
- What constitutes justice in society

This class will consider many of the issues that are important to us in life. Thus, it is meant to promote healthy curiosity, mutual respect, and compassionate communication. I think this is a class you won't want to miss. Both Jim and Ashley will moderate. Come and have fun with us at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings in the lounge starting March 10 - you'll be glad that you did.

Dr. James W. Thornton



The AP Address



Churches who are afraid to fail have already begun their journey to closure. Every. Time. Churches who risk new ideas for the sake of the Kingdom learn how to be a sustained voice of hope in their culture. – Trey Wince, Director of New Disciples, United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

I remember coming home one evening after a meeting of some sort during my first call, frustrated and downcast about my ongoing experience. My little church was essentially at the hospice stage of life, and I was desperately trying anything to get new faces to come through the doors. Some of my ideas were met with a lukewarm *OK*, but the most daring or creative projects were passed over as impossible. "I want to start a church," I ranted to my long-suffering husband. "And I'm going to call it The Church of Yes." I was so tired of hearing no, exhausted of listening to the reasons why none of the things I wanted to try would work. I began to wonder what it would look like to create a community where we *just tried* new things – even if the new things ultimately didn't work.



Most churches aren't ready to embrace such a daring philosophy. Of course, trying new things just for the sake of change isn't desirable either, and

sometimes dreamers with excitable temperaments need to be slowed down to process the finer points of a plan. God has strategically placed some detail-oriented thinkers in my life who hold me accountable for the logistical aspects of projects that I would otherwise ignore.

That being said, the Church in general has been far too slow to embrace change of any kind, swimming in the same bathwater until it's tepid and gray. And there's a price to be paid for the collective *no's* we've said, including the loss of creative and forward-thinking types from our midst. Watching an episode of *Queer Eye*, now resurrected on Netflix, reminded me that the Church's inability to shift in a timely way toward the acceptance of the LGBTQ community has left us largely out of the conversation on gay rights. In many movements related to equality and humanity, where we should be at the forefront of change and reform, we have become followers and late-adapters at best.

There must be a balance, then – a way of safely saying yes – that gives both lay people and pastors permission to create, permission to dream, and yes, permission to fail. This yes must be one that sacrifices neither the health of the community nor the message of the Gospel. This yes balances on a seesaw of responsibility and progress, recognizing the



See **AP ADDRESS** page 13

Board Updates

Session Notes

By Nancy Pinkowicz

Once again Session is blessed to begin the New Year with a full slate of enthusiastic officers to serve on our boards, accompanied by a dedicated and capable staff. Session welcomes the following new and returning elders: Class of 2019: Steve Brunozzi, Joyce Kornfeld, Alice Jacobs, Barbara Podrost, David Rice and Hans Stein; Class of 2020: Nancy Pinkowicz, Barbara Thornton, Ken Schuyler, Melissa Deacon, Jay Raulinaitis and Ellen Krieg. Class of 2021: David Campbell, Lynne Schutt, Kent Dyer, Anne Newman, Richard Thomas and Bruce Miller.



Session established the following 2019 Session Committees, chairpersons denoted with an asterisk:

Christian Education: Melissa Deacon* and Steve Brunozzi ; Church Officer
Nominating: Barbara Podrost* and Nancy Pinkowicz; Congregational Life: David Rice* and David Campbell; Outreach (Evangelism): Ken Schuyler* and Alice Jacobs; Finance, Investments and Insurance: Hans Stein* and Kent Dyer; Personnel: Joyce Kornfeld* and Jay Raulinaitis; Property: Lynne Schutt* and Dick Thomas; Stewardship: Anne Newman* and Ellen Krieg; and Worship

and Sacraments: Barbara Thornton* and Bruce Miller. Nancy Pinkowicz will assume the duties as Clerk of Session in 2019. Please feel free to ask questions and share suggestions or concerns with your church officers.

The following items were among the reports and business conducted by Session:

Session approved that the 2019 Vacation Bible School will take place Sunday, July 28, through Thursday, August 1, 2019.

Session approved the hiring of Edward Reilly as Carmel's new custodian who is scheduled to start on or before January 31, 2019 once all required background checks and clearances are complete.



With Session's approval, the Property Committee scheduled the removal of two dead trees in the lower left corner of the hill behind the main parking lot by Arader Tree Service at a cost of \$4,460.

The Operating Budget for 2019 and the 2109 Ushering Schedule were both approved by Session.

In December Session approved, at the request of the Deacons, a new structure for the Board of Deacons. As a result,



Session will now handle Trust Fund B and the College Fund. At our January meeting, Session approved that the Outreach

(Evangelism) Committee will take on the responsibilities of Trust Fund B and the Stewardship Committee will assume the responsibilities of the College Fund. Session also approved that the Stewardship Committee will manage the Membership Roll.

Session approved vacation leave for Dr. Thornton from March 18 through 24, 2019 and study leave Monday mornings from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., starting March 8 and continuing until April 19, 2019.

For more information about these activities and more, please be sure to read the related article included in this edition of the *Courier*.

Deacons Notes

By Taylor Tolton

The Deacons welcomed five new members to the board this year, including Jed Smith, Steven Heintz Jr., Lynne Dimitri, Nicole Bohlander, and Jimmy Scholly, the youngest-ever member of the board. We are also happy to welcome Carol Moll back



as a returning Deacon. We are very excited to continue our journey of being called by Christ with these blessed individuals.

We would also like to announce our new executive committee with Lisa Lent as Moderator, Bob Lohoefer as Vice Moderator/Treasurer, and Susan Lohoefer as Recording Secretary. With the guidance of this dedicated dream team, the Deacons look forward to witnessing the redeeming love of Jesus Christ and nurturing our congregation, family, friends, and community.

Eight care packages and two care cards were sent to our graduate and undergraduate college students. Packages contained goodies and supplies meant to motivate students during their studies and let them know their Carmel crew believes in them and knows they're on their way to doing amazing things.



With the help of our Refuge friends and the wonderful Carol Moll, we packaged enough soup to take some to all of our homebound members visited by Karen Bogle. Eleven meals were packaged from Christmas Brunch leftovers, and Nancy O'Brien delivered two bags of food—over 40 lbs!—to the Interfaith Food Cupboard. The Deacons are grateful for the generosity of



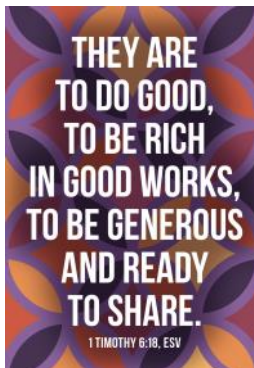
our fellow Christians and humanists and look forward to continued support for outreach missions like these.

This was one of our most successful Christmas gift collections for The Village ever! 125 wish lists were fulfilled thanks to you. ROAM, with Deacon approval, also collected nine large bags of gently used coats and apparel for men, women, and children which were delivered by ROAM to Germantown Ave. Crisis Ministry.

Because of the service by which you have proved yourself, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.
—2 Corinthians 9:13

With the new year upon us, the Deacons are eager to enter 2019 as a renewed and reorganized board with a focus on member care! After months of deliberation by a determined sub-committee—who took a good hard look at everything our humble group of 12-15 takes accountability for—the Deacons have decided to center ourselves on providing for our members and assisting our incredible congregation where they too are called by Christ.

So what does this mean? It means don't be afraid to share your talents with your



church! Have an idea for one of our outreach missions? Something you're feeling inspired to be a part of? Question about what we do? Reach out to the Deacon in your district and get ready to connect to our team in newly enriched ways. Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you and our prayer community, which you can join by contacting Pastor Ashley, Sue Loehofer, or by calling the office at 215-887-1074.

The Board of Deacons wish you a happy, healthy, and blessed 2019!



Meet our new officers—Deacons

Nicole Bohlander has been attending Carmel for 20 years and joined in 2017. She became involved through her husband Tom, who grew up here. They live in Quakertown. Nicole, whose birth name is Yoke Ling, is a native of Malaysia, where she grew up in the capital, Kuala Lumpur. Her large family of 12 included 8 brothers and 3 sisters, most of whom still live in Malaysia. She speaks five languages, due to her multi-cultural homeland.

Nicole works as a graphic designer for an advertising newspaper. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, baking, and singing. She is an enthusiastic member of the soprano section of Carmel's Sanctuary Choir, driving about 120 miles a week for choir rehearsal and Sunday worship. She

has always wanted to become God's servant in the church. Previously she felt unready, but decided now was the time to start to do the Lord's work.

Lynn Dimitri was formerly a member of Roslyn Presbyterian Church and chose to recently join Carmel because she felt it was very warm and inviting, much like her former church. Church support has been important to her during recent difficult times. She grew up in Roslyn and currently resides in Hatboro with her 24-year-old son James. Lynn is a Customer Service Supervisor for a medical insurance claims administrator.

Lynn's interests include football, cooking and classic rock'n'roll. At Roslyn Church, she served as a Deacon and a Session member. She was always wanting to reach out and help, and has an elderly friend, a stroke victim, whom she helps out. As a Carmel Deacon, she hopes to be involved with helping people and is interested in Carmel's mission work.

Steven Heintz, Jr., an Ardsley resident, says that he has been at Carmel since birth for a total of 22 years. His family includes parents Marleen and Steve, Sr., brother AJ, and his twin sister Sarah. A 2018 graduate of Keystone College, Steven is Recreation Coordinator for Worcester Township and also a teacher at Ardsley Day Care.

He was a member of Carmel's youth group for many years and participated in a number of mission trips. Steven has also assisted with VBS. His interests are "sports, sports, and sports," and he was a member of the soccer and tennis teams at Keystone College. What drew him to the

Board of Deacons was the ability to become more involved with the church now that he is out of college.

Carol Moll is a returning Deacon, who has been a primary coordinator for the Meals in a Moment program. She has served as a Shepherd, Christian Ed and Congregational Life Committee member, Sunday School teacher, and assisted with VBS and youth group, as well as the Asheville Mission Trip.

Carol and husband Gary live in Ardsley and have been Carmel members for over 20 years. Their son Tyler was married last fall. Carol grew up in Northeast Philadelphia and has a twin sister. She is the Primary Care Unit Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. Carol loves to cook, especially from her Italian heritage, and her favorite place to be is on the beach. She is currently devoting her energies to recovery and physical therapy after double knee replacement surgery in early December.

James (Jimmy) Scholly was a member of Carmel's 2018 Confirmation Class and has grown up at Carmel. He lives in North Hills with his parents Bob, Jr. and Lisa and older brother, Bobby. Jimmy is 15 years old and a 9th grader at Abington Junior High School. His school activities include 9th grade basketball, freshman class council, and cellist in the orchestra.

At Carmel, Jimmy has been active in choirs, youth group, mission trips, and served as a worship leader. He enjoys music—playing electric guitar and cello, reading, and sports, including playing baseball for Ardsley/North Hills.

See **DEACONS** page 16



Thank You



Members of Carmel,

Thank you for your caring thoughts and prayers. The Christmas plant is beautiful and was delivered by Ruth Kucera, who is always so pleasant and smiling.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Blessings,
Jean Oberholtzer

Dear Carmel members—

During this holiday season I am especially missing my dear parents George and Jeane Kaufmann and my old church home at Carmel. They met at Carmel and during my childhood and young adulthood, all my cousins, aunts, and uncles on both sides went to Carmel. My grandparents dedicated two of the beautiful windows (Armstrongs). I met (and did not marry) a couple of long-term boyfriends there myself and was married at Carmel.

Anyway, it seems appropriate to ask that you choose some memorial gift for them... sorry it's not nearly enough for a window.

Sincerely,
Carol L. Jenkins

Dear Carmel Church,

I wanted to say Thank You to the Shepherds as well as to Florence Dyer in regard to Gregory's surgery on 12/27/18. The Shepherds left a beautiful floral

arrangement to brighten his day, and Florence delivered her amazing fudge and other homemade goodies for when he was feeling better.

We are so thankful to our church for all the prayers; he is on the road to recovery.

Thank you,
Kristin Waldner

Thanks to Sanctuary Decorators

A big thank you goes to all who helped decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas season, making it beautiful for the December worship services and concerts. Heide and Bruce Miller headed the team, which also included Rod Hackman, Walt Newman, Barb Thornton, Gail Warburton and Mary Ellen Thomas.



Also Linda MacFarland and Nancy Pinkowicz put up the Chrismons on the Christmas trees. Deb Gates was responsible for obtaining and placing the poinsettias in the Sanctuary and organizing the memorial donations for the Christmas flowers.

A lovely and appreciated new touch this year was the spacious and well-lit display of Carmel's nativity scene in the porte-couchere entrance to the left of the Sanctuary entrance. Kudos to Heide Miller for this idea and creation.

Carmel Book Club—Winter 2019

We are excited to announce a new adult ed opportunity here at Carmel—the Book Club, taking place in the Winter of 2019! Join Pastor Ashley in reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, a fascinating look at the ways in which darkness helps us understand our selves, and our God, more deeply.

Taylor has an ability to help each of us hone in on the uncomfortable parts of our lives and spiritual development—those things that we keep buried in the dark.

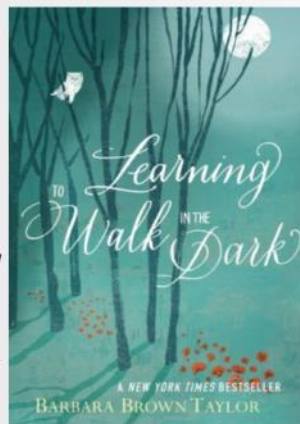
We will be meeting at various Book Club member homes throughout the six week course to share light snacks and discuss our takeaways from the reading. Books will be provided by Christian Ed.

**Meeting Dates: 2/21,
2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28**

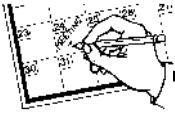
Time: 7:30 PM

Locations: TBD

Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In Learning to Walk in the Dark, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.



"I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light." - Barbara Brown Taylor, Learning to Walk in the Dark



Carmel Family Activities

Fellowship with ROAM

By Pat Morris

ROAM (Retirees on a Mission) will meet on Wednesday, February 6, at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Lounge. Bring a covered dish to share at our covered dish lunch. Please bring your favorite game to play after lunch.



Save March 6 for our next gathering. Bill Randel will present a program on old coins. Please join us for a fun afternoon on both dates!

Stewardship Notes

By Anne Newman,
Chairperson



Per Capita Envelope

In the front of your envelope box, you will find a blue envelope marked \$30.00 for per capita. Carmel is asked to pay about \$12,000 for Philadelphia Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity, and General Assembly. These three bodies help Carmel do our ministry. This \$30.00 is the total for each member of the congregation. Please help us with this amount in addition to your normal giving.

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 3 is a day that many football fans know as Super Bowl Sunday. At Carmel it is **Souper Bowl Sunday!** Our youth will be holding soup pots for all of us to contribute. The donations will be sent to Broad Street Ministry.

In 1990, Brad Smith, a seminary in Columbia, SC offered this simple prayer, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This began the Souper Bowl in South Carolina. It has spread throughout the country. It is still urgently needed.



New Committee Structure

2019 has begun with new leadership on committees and sometimes new duties. The Stewardship committee is always ready to consider new ideas. Please contact Anne Newman with suggestions - and especially volunteer to work with this committee.

Ash Wednesday on March 6 begins Lent

By Worship and
Sacraments
Committee



Join us for **ASH WEDNESDAY** dinner and worship on Ash Wednesday, March 6. In keeping with the spirit of penitence during Lent, we will share a simple meal followed by a service of worship. The service of worship will include the Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper.

The dinner will begin at 6:30 PM in Carmel Hall and the service of worship will be in the Chapel at 7:30 PM.

Homemade soup will be provided, along with rolls. Please bring your own soup bowl, salad plate and utensils. This helps to cut down on serving and cleanup time, and allows the evening to end at a reasonable hour for families with young children.

Please bring a dish according to the following alphabetical listing:
Cupcakes, A-H; Salads, I-Z.

• A S H •
Wednesday



Also on Ash Wednesday morning: if you're taking the train to work or simply want to stop by, Pastor Ashley Rossi will be giving "ashes to go" at Elcy's Café of the Glenside Train Station from 7:00

to 9:00 AM.

Youth news from Refuge & Oasis



By Joyce Kornfeld

Join us for Souper Bowl of Caring on February 3. Wear your favorite NFL jersey to church and donate as you leave worship to support the nationwide fight against hunger and poverty in our local communities. Carmel is supporting Broad Street Ministry, where both Carmel Junior Highs and ROAM have volunteered in the past.



Our hoagie sale for Super Bowl Sunday was a success – thank you from the Oasis team attending Triennium 2019!

Thank you and welcome from the Shepherds

By Mary Ellen Thomas

As we begin a new year of "Shepherding", I would like to thank our two "outgoing" Shepherds who volunteered their time and energies delivering flowers to members of our congregation and preparing bread for our communion services. Heartfelt thanks to Denise Abraham and Joan Kohn for their commitment of time and



**HE WILL
FEED HIS
FLOCK
LIKE A
SHEPHERD.**

ISAIAH 40:11, NRSV

dedication to Carmel.

Being a Shepherd provides a unique opportunity to meet and connect with members of the congregation whom we might not otherwise encounter in our day-to-day activities as members of Carmel. That personal connection is so important in strengthening our church community. Thank you for your service! I would also like to welcome aboard our new Shepherds – Karen Bogle and Melissa Keller. Welcome to the team and thank you for choosing to serve.

Many enjoy Christmas brunch

By Janet Simon

Once again Carmel's Christmas brunch was a delicious and spectacular success, with about 140 people enjoying the fellowship and festivities. Chairperson Dave Rice and the Congregational Life Committee did a wonderful job. This year's early December brunch included an ice sculpture from IcePhilly.com and strolling Christmas carolers in costume, the Clarion Voices, as well as plenty of varied food choices ranging from breakfast items to an ice cream sundae station.



Hats off to the hard-working crew, which included Lisa Scholly, Christina Rice, Matthew Rice, Connie Tolton, Joyce



Kornfeld, Jed Smith, Katey Schuyler, Ken Schuyler, Bob Scholly, Linda MacFarland, Melissa MacFarland, David Lanahan, and Willard Rice, Jr. Mary Ellen and Dick Thomas and Nancy Pinkowicz were a big help with before and after dishes and other cleanup. If we skipped anyone, thanks to you also.

If you missed this year's Christmas brunch, be sure to look for next year's date of this very special time together in a transformed Carmel Hall. You'll be glad you did!



Sally Hanline celebrates her 91st birthday on February 2. February 14 marks the 90th birthday for **Kay Bauer**.

In March, **Nancy Phifer** turns 92 on March 21. March 29 is **Harry Gutekunst's** special day, when he celebrates his 91st birthday.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our February and March 90 plus birthday club members.

AP ADDRESS from page 3
beauty of tradition and simultaneously seeing the hopeful possibilities of transformation.

Trey Wince, quoted above, has done some work on creating this type of culture in his churches. His guiding principles for trying new things are as follows:

1. Take each new idea seriously.
2. Do your homework before launching.
3. Don't get so committed that you can't call it quits for an idea that isn't working.

Step one is my favorite; we are all invited to contribute to the process. Young, old, lifelong member, newbie, liberal, conservative – there is no room for discrimination in creating a culture of *yes*. As we each seek to establish and grow God's kingdom on earth, we cultivate space for each person's hopes, dreams, goals, calling, and gifts.

The people of Carmel, and I'm guessing Presbyterians in general, are great at step two: *doing the homework*. Our system of committees and task forces, with oversight from Session, virtually guarantees that accountability is built into the process. This is also where logistical and practical people shine, helping make creative ideas realistic and viable.

And finally, there's letting go of things that aren't working. This step is necessary for all our programs and processes – old and new alike. I'm proud of our Deacons, who for the past year have made a concerted effort to review *what* we do and *why* we do it. We've let go of some tasks, knowing that we can now refocus on the work of congregational care, the work to which we are called.



The Church of Yes beckons, calling us from complacency to creativity. The Church of Yes is unafraid, it is humane, it is gracious, it embraces the world at large. May we be so bold as to envision the radical love of Christ made tangible in our words and works. Here's to new and exciting endeavors in 2019!

Peace –

Pastor Ashley



RADICAL
Love of Christ



Meet our new officers—Session

Kent Dyer has been employed as the Chief Business Officer and Treasurer for Muhlenberg College since 1998 and commutes to Allentown. His responsibilities include facilities, human resources, purchasing, bookstore, risk management, investments, business office functions, mail room and copy center. In his spare time, he enjoys running, hiking, and spending time with family. Kent and his wife Florence have two sons, John and Joseph, both local. Grandchildren Addlyn (4) and Parker (3 months) are the children of Joseph and his wife, Cecilia. John and his wife Amanda are expecting their first child in May.

At Carmel, Kent has served a few terms as a Deacon, participated in Pastor and Associate Pastor search committees, served multiple terms as a faithful auditor and also served on the Investment Committee. He is now joining Session because “Jim kept asking me!”

Bruce Miller came to Carmel about eight years ago. He lives in Wyncote with his wife Heide and sons Daniel and Michael. The other two Miller sons, Ian and Kevin, live in Glenside and Arlington, Virginia respectively. Bruce works as a consulting engineer for a small consulting firm, IES Engineers, in Blue Bell. He enjoys playing guitar and skiing.

Bruce previously served as an elder for six years, working with the Worship and Sacraments Committee and the Christian Ed Committee. He also accompanied Carmel youth to the Presbyterian Triennium at Purdue in 2013. Bruce is returning to Session because he was asked, and because he believes it is everyone’s call to serve Jesus Christ and the church in ways needed.

Anne Newman has been at Carmel for 57 years from when she was a student at Beaver College, now Arcadia. She and her husband Walter, whom she met at Carmel, live in Oreland. Their son Rich lives in Ireland with his wife and three college age children, daughter Debbie and husband and two daughters live in Moorestown, NJ, and son David, wife and recent college grad daughter live in Seaville, NJ.

Anne is a self-employed independent Avon Representative and previously served as a substitute teacher. Her hobbies include bowling, crossword puzzles, needlework, and reading if she finds time. At Carmel she has served on Session, as chair of the Stewardship Committee and other Session committees, sings with the Sanctuary Choir, is a member of Presbyterian Women and serves as Church Treasurer. She also taught primary age Sunday School for 30 years. In returning to Session, Anne is also following in a family tradition since her grandfather, father, and aunt were all Presbyterian elders. “I guess I was called,” she says.

Lynne Schutt is returning to Session for another term. She started at Carmel as a

child in 1945, left after college, and returned in 2000. She grew up in North Hills and participated in Carmel music and youth activities. Lynne is a Doylestown resident and is retired after first working as a school teacher and then for a number of years as a paralegal in Doylestown.

Lynne says her “lots of family” includes her work family, her neighbor family and her church family. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, playing the piano, and reading. At Carmel she first served on the Trustees, then on a number of Session Committees, accompanies the children’s choirs, leads the Courier mailing team, and is involved with Presbyterian Women, ROAM and FUSE. Lynne has been an active chair of the Property Committee and headed the campaign for Carmel’s elevator. She is returning to Session because “I enjoy being involved and being of service.”

Dick Thomas has been a Carmel member for 40 plus years and has lived since 1974 with his wife Mary Ellen in North Hills, where they raised their three daughters. All three daughters are married and live nearby, and Dick and Mary Ellen feel blessed to have five grandchildren, four boys and one girl. After graduation from F & M, Dick joined the Navy and served as an officer for 16 years, including time in the Navy reserves. He is retired from 34 years of teaching chemistry and biology at Abington High School and Perkiomen Prep.

Dick enjoys skiing, biking, and gardening (specializing in garlic). At Carmel Dick has served as an Elder and a

Trustee, Treasurer, member of the finance committee and property committee, and coordinator/cook for Men’s Breakfast. He is a troubleshooter and jack of all trades to keep Carmel’s property in good repair, and among his specialties is Carmel’s unique heating system. Dick is returning to Session because he enjoys working on the property committee.

David Campbell is returning for a second term on Session. He grew up in Ardsley and at Carmel was active in youth group and Carmel’s choirs. He has also gone on multiple Carmel mission trips. David’s Carmel family members include his mom Bertha, and sisters Heather Coelho and Nicole Campbell. He is married to Jessica and lives in Horsham. He joined Carmel as a confirmand and has been a member for 20 years.

David is employed as a car salesman at Chapman in Horsham. He is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and serves as music assistant to Abby Palmisano and tenor soloist for the Sanctuary Choir. His leisure time pursuits include singing, reading, writing, home brewing, Tai Chi, Reiki, and exercise. During his first term on Session, David served on the Congregational Life Committee and has led Drum Circle evenings at Carmel.



Doris Golingan
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

DEACONS from page 7

Jimmy became a Deacon because he wanted to help out the church and learn more leadership skills. He wants to have an impact on the church when he's young and have a chance to serve and help others.

Jed Smith grew up down the street from Carmel on Edge Hill Road, and went to Carmel for nursery school, before returning as a new member recently. He is an English teacher at Tacony Academy Charter High School in Northeast Philadelphia. The Smith family also includes his wife Heather and their 7-year-old son Liam. They enjoy the mountains, the beach, camping, hiking, biking, and fishing. Jed is a den leader in Liam's Glenside Cub Scout pack.

Jed was inspired to join the Deacons because he sees all the wonderful activities and programs the church organizes for the congregation and community, and he wants to be a bigger part of that. "After volunteering for VBS over the summer, I got to see firsthand how much of an impact we have as a congregation on the community we live in. I want to do my part to help serve the needs of the congregation and the church, and help others to do the same."

This month's editor

Janet Simon



**Next Courier Calendar
Deadline —
February 10, 2019**



YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

February

Madison Morosky - 2/5
Audrey Abraham - 2/8
Veronica Flax - 2/11
David Schwanbeck - 2/12
Emily O'Hara - 2/17
Billy Jacobs - 2/18
Madison Fisher - 2/20
Cameron Reilly - 2/23
Marcus Howard - 2/24
Brett Taylor - 2/25
Lily Taylor - 2/25
Brent Walter - 2/26
Patrick Deacon - 2/27

March

Alexandra Beil, 3/3
Bobby Scholly, 3/3
Gabe Stone, 3/5
Neve Coelho, 3/9
Brianna Coelho, 3/10
Broghan Sweeney, 3/16
Abigail Fisher, 3/27
Ayla Thornton, 3/29

This and That



Carmel Nursery School News

By Leslie Rupp, Director

Carmel Nursery School celebrates community helpers during the month of February. Exploring the jobs of police officers, fire fighters, doctors, nurses, teachers, librarians, and many more professions that serve our community will be part of the curriculum. We look forward to our yearly visit from a police officer and a local dentist to tell the children what a day

Meeting Our
Police and
Firefighters



of work is like for them. This month we will also visit the Upper Dublin School District's planetarium at Sandy Run Middle school.

Members of the Suburban Dog Training Club will be showing off their dogs to the students on Monday, February 11th. It is amazing to see how smart these beautiful animals can be. And how much our children love them!

The school will open registration to our current families in February and registrations will be open in March for the public. If you know anyone who is looking for a great place to learn and have fun at the same time tell them to give us a call and schedule a tour!

The Nursery School will be having a candy sale fundraiser.

If you would like to order some delicious Gertrude Hawk candy our orders are due on February 23rd, and the candy will be in just in time for Easter!! Look for order forms in the Church office or go to www.gertrudehawk.com, click on the fundraising button and enter the code 703475 in the Group Member Sign Up box. Click on Carmel Nursery School and start shopping! Thank you for your support.



Happy Birthday, Carmel!

Although the first church service and Sunday School class were held 10 years prior, February 15 marks the 137th anniversary of the formal organization of Carmel Presbyterian Church with 26 charter members in 1882. This was the date when Carmel was officially accepted as a member of the Philadelphia North Presbytery.



The first church building was constructed at the corner of Mt. Carmel Avenue and Edge Hill Road, and dedicated on February 15, 1876.

Walking the prayer labyrinth in Lent, beginning March 6

By Dr. James W. Thornton

[Editor's note: Carmel's prayer labyrinth was first used during the 2015 Advent Season. It was started during 'Lent at Carmel' Wednesday night programs that year and completed by Gene Morris and Dr. Thornton, who taped and painted lines.

A labyrinth is a path which leads, via a circuitous route, to the center of an intricate design and back out again. A labyrinth's route is unicursal; that is, it has only a single path. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth is designed for ease of navigation, and it is impossible to get lost within one.

A prayer labyrinth is a labyrinth used to facilitate prayer, meditation, spiritual



Prayer Labyrinth

transformation, and/or global unity. The most famous prayer labyrinths today include an ancient one in the cathedral of Chartres, France, another in the cathedral of Duomo di Siena, Tuscany; and two maintained by Grace Cathedral, an

Episcopal church in San Francisco. While prayer labyrinths have been used in certain cathedrals for centuries, the past half

century has seen a resurgence in their popularity, especially within Christian groups that emphasize “quietness” as an aid to the spiritual life.



Labyrinths have been used by a wide variety of cultures for at least 3,500 years. Evidence of ancient labyrinths exists in Crete, Egypt, Italy, Scandinavia, and North America. Ancient labyrinths had what is usually called the “classical” design of seven rings, or circuits. The Hopi Indians saw the labyrinth as a symbol of Mother Earth, and the hundreds of stone labyrinths along the Scandinavian shoreline were used as magic traps for trolls and evil winds to ensure safe fishing.

In the Middle Ages, the Church adapted the labyrinth for its own purposes within its cathedrals. The classical form gave way to a more intricate design of 11 circuits in 4 quadrants, usually called the “medieval” design. Within Christianity, the labyrinth could symbolize several things: the hard and winding road to God, a mystical ascension to salvation and enlightenment, or even a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for those who could not make the actual journey.

Groups involved in the modern resurgence of the labyrinth have called it a “divine imprint,” a “mystical tradition,” a “sacred path,” and a “sacred gateway.” Its purpose is “to transform the human spirit,” thus walking the Labyrinth is seen as a

personal practice for healing and growth, a tool for community building, an agent for global peace and a metaphor for the blossoming of the Spirit in our lives.

Some have suggested that walking a prayer labyrinth involves 3 stages: purgation (releasing), illumination (receiving), and union (returning). “*Purgation*” occurs as one moves toward the center of the labyrinth. During this stage, one sheds the cares and distractions of life and opens one’s heart and mind. “*Illumination*” occurs at the center of the labyrinth where we have a simple cross; this is the time to “*receive what is there for you*” through prayer and meditation. “*Union*” occurs as one exits the labyrinth and involves joining God as a healing force at work in the world.



Regular patrons of prayer labyrinths speak of using it to become enlightened, realigned with the universe, and increasingly empowered to know one’s Self and to accomplish the

spiritual work of the soul, as well as a renewed commitment to the Divine will. Whatever experience you find in it, our labyrinth will be out and available for use during the season of Lent. You are invited to walk.

Dr. James W. Thornton



Carmel mourns the loss of these members of the Carmel family and extends sympathy to their family and friends.

Taylor Goettner, December 1, life partner of Tyler Blaetz

Lillian Witter, January 3, mother of Susan Witter Landers

Virginia (Jean) Thomas, January 15, mother of June Thomas

Please remember their loved ones in prayer.

*Neither death nor life ...
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from
THE LOVE OF GOD
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

ROMANS 8:38-39, ESV



Sunday Lectionary Readings

February 3 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
 Jeremiah 1:4–10 **Communion**
 Psalm 71:1–6
 1 Corinthians 13:1–13
 Luke 4:21–30

February 10 **5th Sunday after Epiphany**
 Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13)
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1–11
 Luke 5:1–11

February 17 **6th Sunday after Epiphany**
 Jeremiah 17:5–10
 Psalm 1
 1 Corinthians 15:12–20
 Luke 6:17–26

February 24 **7th Sunday after Epiphany**
 Genesis 45:3–11, 15
 Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40
 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50
 Luke 6:27–38

MARCH

March 3 **Transfiguration of the Lord**
 Exodus 34:29–35 **Communion**
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2
 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

March 6 **Ash Wednesday**
 Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12
 Psalm 51:1–17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

March 10 **First Sunday in Lent**
 Deuteronomy 26:1–11
 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

Romans 10:8b–13
 Luke 4:1–13

March 17 **Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17–4:1
 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36

March 24 **Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1–9
 Psalm 63:1–8
 1 Corinthians 10:1–13
 Luke 13:1–9

March 31 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9–12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16–21
 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32



Please remember these Carmel members in prayer as they recuperate.

Bud Galow

Carol Moll



Meet our new officers: Shepherds

Melissa Keller and husband Bruce are the parents of Aidan, age 15, and Lia, age 11. They first came to Carmel when their children attended Carmel Nursery School, where Melissa also taught for several years. "While at work one day I saw flyers for Children's Choir, Lia joined and we found the community warm and welcoming. The rest is history!" Melissa says. Both Keller children participate in Choir and Refuge, and Aidan was confirmed last May.

The Keller family lives in Abington. Melissa grew up in Rose Valley, PA and is currently an assistant at Cheltenham Elementary School. Her interests include reading, working at Pennypack Farm, nature, hiking and finding new restaurants. Melissa joined the Shepherds because "I want to play a more integral role in the church, get to know more members and give back to a place that has given our family so much over the years."

Ruth Kucera has done almost anything you can think of at Carmel since she joined in 1978, serving on all present boards as well as the former Trustees, and was a Junior High Youth Advisor with her husband Rich. She still volunteers in the church Library, counts money, and is a long-time member of the Choir. Ruth and Rich live in Ardsley and have two sons, Steve and Doug, and a grandson, Steve, Jr.

Ruth is happily retired and has enjoyed traveling to 42 states and various international destinations. She likes reading, exercise, keeping in touch with friends, helping out, and enjoying nature. Recipients of her Shepherd visits praise her always visiting with a friendly smile.

Patricia Agbote has been at Carmel for a while now. She previously lived in Ghana, West Africa. Patricia is the single mother of three and lives in Elkins Park. Her Agbadan children are Fabrice, a 2018 graduate of Temple University, Venus a 10th grader at Cheltenham High School, and kindergartner Jocelyn.

Patricia is a nurse and works for ACTS. She has previously served as a Deacon and on the Christian Ed Committee. She loves music, especially gospel. "I returned to the board because I love meeting and serving people."

Karen Bogle has served several terms on the board of Deacons and has been very active in their visitation program to retirement community residents and homebound members. She has been a Carmel member for about 18 years. Karen has faithfully served on many Carmel committees, including most recently Property and the Nursery School Advisory Board. She was very involved in Carmel's kitchen renovation project. A co-leader of the ROAM program for Carmel and community seniors, Karen is also devoted to Carmel's children as a co-teacher of the Children's Worship program.

A retired registered nurse, who worked mostly in critical care and pediatrics, Karen was born and raised in Phila-

delphia's East Falls. She raised her family of three children in Orelan and now lives in Penllyn. Karen enjoys reading, crocheting, knitting, sewing, crafting, and best of all being with her grandchildren. Joining the Shepherds is a natural fit with Karen's dedication and love for visiting Carmel's senior and homebound members.



By Bev Mitchell (the newest member of the Carmel Library staff)

John Grisham's latest book **THE RECKONING** proves his reputation as one of America's greatest storytellers. His books are entertaining accounts and critiques of the legal system, populated by complex, interesting people. He never fails to entertain and provide insight into the justice system and its protagonists.

This latest novel, his 32nd, takes the reader on a journey from a racist south to the jungles of the Philippines during World War II. Pete Banning, a decorated war hero, father, farmer and respected Mississippian, walks into the local Methodist church and guns down his pastor and family friend, the Rev. Dexter Bell.

This interesting story shows how this incident affects the lives of his family and the community around them. It raises questions about the death penalty and is a

fascinating tale of how as his family, his lawyers and a jury of his peers search for the motive behind this senseless killing, Pete Banning wishes to keep it a secret to the grave.

A story filled with suspense and dark secrets unfolds as we try to unravel this mystery along with his lawyers' courtroom defense and delve into Pete's history as a cotton farmer in the prejudiced south and his stint as a Japanese prisoner of war. It had me riveted right to the end. (F GR)

New look coming for the *Carmel Courier*

By Janet Simon



Changes are coming for the Carmel Courier, and like many new births, we don't know yet what everything will look like. What we do know right now is that the familiar long Courier will likely be published in a different, more modern format of varying lengths. In March a shorter "monthly calendar" will give the important highlights of events happening that month. You'll also notice some regular March coverage in this February issue.

Carmel is hiring a Communication's Specialist. The Communications Task Force received Session approval for a new part-time staff member to handle Carmel's communication program – website, social media, print and online publications, and publicity. The future approach to our Courier is high on the list. Thank you to the task force for all of the work getting us here! Stay tuned for all the news on Carmel happenings in new, modern formats.

Carmel Memorial Library



By Gail Warburton, Librarian

GERTRUDA'S OATH: A Child, a

Promise, and a Heroic Escape During World War II. Michael Stelowitzky, the only son of a wealthy Jewish family in Poland, was just three years old when war broke out and the family lost everything. His father, desperate to settle his business affairs, traveled to France, leaving Michael in the care of his mother and Gertruda Bablinska, the family's devoted Catholic nanny. When Michael's mother had a stroke, Gertruda promised the dying woman that she would make her way to Palestine and raise him as her own son. Written with the assistance of Michael, now 72, this book re-creates Michael and Gertruda's amazing journey. Vignettes bring to life the people who helped ensure their survival, including SS officer Karl Rink, who made it his mission to save Jews after his own Jewish wife was murdered. This is a story of extraordinary courage and moral strength in the face of horrific events. By Ram Oren (j940.53)

YOUR NEXT BREATH: Catherine Ling's

son Luke was kidnapped when he was only two years old. After nine torturous years apart, their reunion was a miracle. Now that Catherine is building a relationship with Luke, it seems that someone from her past is playing a deadly game with her, and using those she cares about as pawns. Someone is picking off the people Catherine cares about one by one, with the circle

narrowing closer and closer to those she loves the most. By Iris Johansen. (F Jo)

THE DEATH OF MRS. WESTAWAY:

When Harriet "Hal" Westaway receives a letter bequeathing her a substantial inheritance, she realizes very quickly that the letter was sent to the wrong person. But the cold-reading skills she's honed as a tarot card reader might help her claim the money. Soon, Hal finds herself at the funeral of the deceased, where she discovers that there is something very, very wrong....and the inheritance is at the center of it. By Ruth Ware, author of "The Woman in Cabin 10" (F Wa)

UNDER FIRE: A Jack Ryan Jr. Novel. On

a routine intelligence gathering mission in Tehran, Jack Ryan, Jr., has lunch with his oldest friend, Seth Gregory, an engineer overseeing a transcontinental railway project. The next day Jack is summoned to an apartment where two men claim Seth has disappeared along with the operational funds meant for a vital intelligence mission. They leave Jack with a warning: If you hear from Seth Gregory, call us immediately. And do not get involved. But they don't know Jack! By Grant Blackwood: a Tom Clancy novel. (F Cl)

For Younger Readers

February brings us three special occasions to read books. The first is "Groundhog" day on February 2nd. The

second and third are to remember two of our president's birthdays: Abraham Lincoln on February 12th and George Washington on February 22nd. Both are celebrated this year on "Presidents Day" February 18th. Here are just a few books, but we have more in our library. Please come visit us!



GEOFFREY GROUNDHOG PREDICTS

THE WEATHER: When Geoffrey Groundhog pops out of his hole to predict the weather, he is blinded by television cameras and lights and is unable to see if he has a shadow. No one in town knows how to proceed, so Geoffrey needs help fast. By Bruce Koscielniak. (Jf Ko)

GREGORY'S SHADOW: Gregory Groundhog and his shadow desperately look for each other after they become separated from one another just before their annual appearance on Groundhog Day. By Don Freeman. (jF Fr)

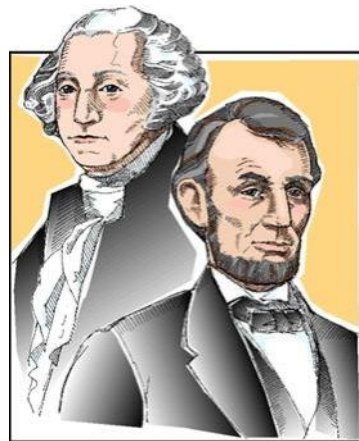
I AM ABRAHAM LINCOLN: When Abraham Lincoln was a kid he stood up to bullies and believed in fairness for everyone. When he was president, he ended slavery because of his belief that all people are created equal. By Brad Meltzer. (j923 Me)

MEET ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A look at the life of Abraham Lincoln, including

his boyhood, his presidency, and his legacy of freedom. By Patricia A. Pingry. (J923 Pi)

I AM GEORGE WASHINGTON: Learn all about George Washington, America's first president. George Washington was one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known. He was never afraid to be the first to try something, from exploring the woods around his childhood home to founding a brand new nation, the United States of America. With his faith in the American people and tremendous bravery, he helped win the Revolutionary War and became the country's first president. By Brad Meltzer. (j923 Me)

MEET GEORGE WASHINGTON: A biography of the nation's first president, including his youth in Virginia, his army career, and his leadership of the newly formed United States of America. By Patricia A. Pingry. (j923 Wa)



PRESIDENTS' DAY