



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Sunday, July 28 thru
Thursday, August 1
6:30 pm-8:30 pm each night

For children age 4 to Grade 7 (Sept.
'19)

Save the Date! It's never too early to plan an unforgettable VBS week at Carmel!

Check back soon for ways you can help via donations, volunteering, building or clean-up.

QUESTIONS, comments concerns: Please contact the Church Office at (215) 887-1074.

For our planning and preparations, PRE-REGISTRATION is strongly encouraged.
Online registration will be available soon!

Visit the church website: www.presbycarmel.org

ROAM

ROAM will meet on Wednesday, May 1st at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Lounge. Please bring a covered dish to share for lunch.



Following lunch, we will be entertained by a barbershop quartet from The Bucks County Gentlemen. We've had them here before and they provide a very entertaining program. Feel free to bring friends. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Save the first Wednesday in June. We'll be having lunch at Rydal Park!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Deacons	2
Session Notes.....	2
Triennium	2
Carmel Choir Honors.....	3
Sounds from Ukraine	3
Property Committee	3
Faithful Families.....	3
Baptisms	4
Farewell.....	4
Bible Recipients	4
Class of 2019.....	4
Thank you.....	4
Hospital List.....	4

The Ascension Challenge (May 30)

Acts 1 says that “Jesus disappeared into a cloud.” I’m not even sure this statement was meant by the author of Acts as a visual description of what really happened, given that “clouds” were one of the more frequent metaphors in the Old Testament. In various ways, clouds symbolized the presence and glory of God. Thus, however Jesus finally left them, there is no doubt that it was surrounded by the presence and glory of God. The disciples, of course, were still pictured as confused, thus an angel admonished them, “Why do you stand there looking toward heaven?” In other words, don’t stand there looking up – get to work! The point is that the disciples’ mission and, indeed, our own mission is right here -- in our own time and in our own place and on our own planet -- not in some far-off location where Jesus was headed.

You see, the point of the Ascension is primarily one of perspective. Going up with the clouds is seeing life and this world as God sees life and this world. It gives us a broader perspective on who we are and our purpose on this planet. Rather than just an individualistic image of salvation and personal well-being, the Ascension challenges us to bring heaven to earth, that is, to live the values of God’s Kingdom in our world. As the Lord’s Prayer proclaims, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” When we live from a higher perspective, we can transcend our own self-interest to embrace the well-being of the whole earth, including strangers, including enemies, including non-human beings, including water, air and everything else. After all, it was all created from the beginning for God’s glory. And the Spirit that Jesus promised will embrace it all -- the entire creation. This Spirit reconciles rather than divides. This Spirit promises wholeness and salvation for all people, not the select few we think deserve it. The manifestation of God is global and all-inclusive, not parochial and limited, in contrast to the individualistic and limited visions proclaimed by persons obsessed by their own fears and bigotries. As the prophet Joel proclaimed, “(God) will pour (God’s) Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy; and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon the male and female slaves I will pour out my Spirit. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

On Ascension Day, we are likewise challenged to “go up” -- to find higher ground -- not to escape Earth’s crises, but to gain a vision and a mission that is larger than ourselves -- indeed, even larger than our local church. As the angel urged the disciples -- we don’t need to look to the heavens to find inspiration. The ever-present God is right here, giving us all the guidance and inspiration we need, if we but look beyond ourselves. Our mission is in front of us -- to heal, to embrace, to welcome, and to love. We don’t need to wait for a far-off day of perfection and rapture. If God is always with us, then right here and right now we’ll experience the day of transformation and fulfillment Jesus means for us.

Dr. James W. Thornton

From the Deacons

It's time for May flowers, and some hands on mission opportunities with the Carmel Board of Deacons! Mark your calendar now for our annual Aid For Friends Cook-in scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd right after church in the Carmel Hall kitchen. More details and a sign-up sheet will be posted on the Deacon's bulletin board in early June.

We hope you were able to participate in the Walk Against Hunger on Saturday, April 27th! Christ is calling past Deacon Kerri Strike-Stahler who gave her time and talents to Carmel last month when she coordinated a team of walkers to support the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (GACM.) Each year the Walk Against Hunger raises around \$200,000 for anti-hunger organizations throughout our region. Kerri—who has a passion for ending hunger and believes in the mission of GACM—reached out to the Deacons for support in implementing her plan. If you are being called by Christ and would like promotional support and guidance in achieving your goal, please submit your proposal to your district Deacon!



Deacon Danny Miller will perform with his theater group, Harmony Theater, in their spring show, 101 Dalmatians! The show will premiere Friday, May 17th at 7:30 p.m. then show again on Saturday and Sunday, May 18th & 19th at 2 p.m. Shows are held at The Church of the Messiah, 1001 Dekalb Pike, Lower Gwynedd Township, PA and tickets can be bought at the door for \$10. Danny will be portraying Colonial the sheep dog. More information can be found on Facebook or at www.harmonytheaterinc.com.

"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." —Mark 5:16

Triennium

The Christian Education Committee would like to make you aware of several fundraisers scheduled to support our Carmel Youth Triennium delegates in the months leading up to a wonderful opportunity they have as teenage members of our denomination.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) that occurs every three years. The 2019 event is July 16-20 at Purdue University. Five days of CONVERSATION, RECREATION, LEARNING, WORSHIP AND FUN! Drawing from the rich and diverse theology, history and education of the Presbyterian tradition – the Triennium experience is packed with the information students long to explore! Digging into faith through a variety of activities and experiences – all focused around the theme "Here's My Heart"-- participants at the Triennium will re-enter their lives with a fresh sense of inspiration grounded in the context of personal and communal worship!

Together with Bruce Miller, I chaperoned the 2013 Triennium and I was so grateful for the experience. It was humbling to see how much thoughtful planning and hard work was carried out on behalf of our kids. Even more awe inspiring was watching our small group of Presbyterian teenagers see first hand that there are thousands of kids, so much like them, truly energized and living out our faith traditions all

Session Notes

The following items were among the reports and business conducted and approved by Session during the Regular April Meeting.

Session looks forward to receiving into membership Elizabeth Rose Kelly and John David Kelly III on Sunday, June 2, 2019 during worship and the baptism of Thea Grace Kelly daughter of Elizabeth and John also during worship on June 2.

The Outreach Committee will host missionaries Charles and Melissa Johnson at Carmel on Tuesday July 23, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

The Outreach Committee will also disburse monies from Trust Fund B totaling \$4,500 to Missionaries Charles and Melissa Johnson (Zambia), Philadelphia Presbytery, Chester Eastside, Inc. and John Gloucester House.

The Deacons will disburse \$2,750 from the Deacons Fund, representing Mission Interpretation to support five organizations serving those in need in the local community: Bethanna, Face to Face, Dawn's Place, Aid for Friends and DePaul House.

Other Deacon activities are an Aid-For-Friends Cook-In on Sunday, June 23, 2019 and an outreach mission opportunity led Kerri Strike-Stahler as a team of walkers in the Walk Against Hunger on Saturday, April 27, 2019 to support the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry.

Finally, at the request of Alice Jacobs and her family Carmel will host a Designer Bag Bingo fundraising event on Friday June 7, 2019 in Carmel Hall to benefit the Leukemia Foundation.

For more information, please be sure to read the related articles included in this edition of the Courier.



(Triennium continued)

over the world. So many of these students come together at Triennium every three years to really worship and celebrate their faith together. To support Carmel's teens, watch for the upcoming fundraisers:

Parents Night Out – plenty of youth and their chaperones will be on hand to entertain your kids while you enjoy an evening out. Friday, April 12, 2019 from 6 pm to 9 pm. Free will offering (with a suggested donation of \$30/child)

Spring Car Wash – come check a spring cleaning item off your list and leave with a sparkling vehicle. Saturday, May 18, 2019 (May 25, 2019, Rain date)

Rent A Youth – need some extra hands? Rent our Triennium participants to help clean out the garage, do some weeding, hauling some boxes out of the attic, etc. Saturday, June 8.

Please take advantage of one or all of these opportunities to support our Triennium bound youth and please tell your friends and neighbors. —Melissa Deacon, Christian Education Chair

Carmel Honors All Choir Members

By Abby Palmisiano, Director of Music

Carmel will recognize the choir members who have given their gifts of time and talent this year on Sunday morning, May 12, during worship. We are grateful to our choirs who lead us in worship throughout the year.



Children's Choir

Jocelyn Agbadan, Lydia Lin, Kaleb Little, JD Rossi, Sonny Rossi, Alice Stein, Maxwell Stein, and Madlyn Sweeney

Junior Choir

Audrey Abraham, Olivia Brunozzi, Nathaniel Gates, Ava Jonas, Lia Keller, Olivia Grace Lin-Ralph, Jillian Morton, Kelsey Morton, Samantha Morton, Shealyn O'Gara, Joelle Stein, Sophia Washington

Youth Singers

Evelyn Abraham and Venus Agbadan

Sanctuary Choir

Nicole Bohlander, Deborah Gates, Doris Golangan, Linda MacFarland, Anne Newman, Nancy Pinkowicz, Lois Randel, Lisa Scholly, Barbara Thompson, Barbara Thornton, Taylor Tolton, Beth Cherry, Leslie Donaghy, Barbara Knox, Heide Miller, Louise Robinson, David Campbell, Ruth Kucera, and Jim Thompson.

Handbell Choir

Bertha Campbell, Nicole Campbell, Neve Coelho, Mary Hausher, Betsy Manzinger, Madi Manzinger, Mark Manzinger, Barbara Podrost, Crystal Podrost, Lois Randel, and Kathy Stokes.

Co-Director of the Handbell Choir, Heather Coelho.

Accompanist for the Children's Choir and Junior Choir, Lynne Schutt



The Sounds of Ukraine

The world-renowned **Kyiv Chamber Choir** returns to perform a Philadelphia concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday May 18, 2019 at Carmel Presbyterian Church – 100 Edge Hill Rd., Glenside, PA. **Tickets are available at Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Centre (700 N. Cedar Rd., Jenkintown, PA., 215-663-1166) or online at www.universe.com or you may call Platinum Concerts International, toll-free, at 1-877-232-9835 and at the door. For concert information, go to www.platinumconcerts.com.** This is a rare opportunity to hear one of the world's great choirs share 'hidden treasures' from 1,000 years of Ukrainian sacred and folk music. One of 10 concerts the Choir will perform in North American cities, May 18 promises to be a special occasion – not to be missed.

NOTES FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The library hall will have a new look by the end of the summer. The Property Committee has approved estimates to remove the existing floor tile in the hallway, as well as the tile in the kitchen area, and replace it with wood look vinyl plank flooring. Because of Nursery School scheduling issues, the old tile will be removed by ACI-tech in June and the new flooring will be installed by Avalon Carpet and Tile in August.



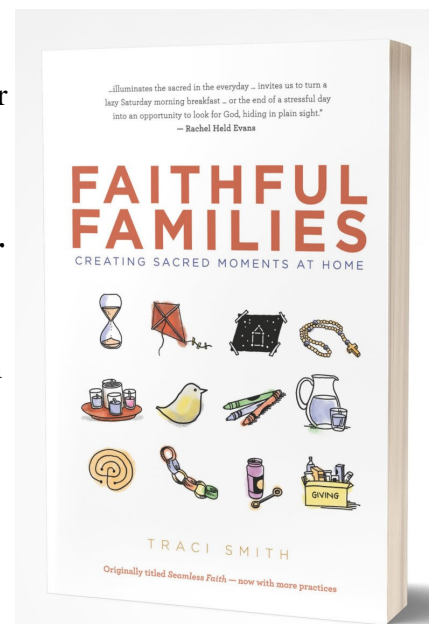
Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home

Life: it's only become more complicated and busier with each generation. Our schedules are packed with activities, sports, lessons, and clubs from sun up to sundown. Our employers can reach us 24-7, and finding "downtime" or spiritual time can be a challenge.

If you find yourself resonating with the description above, **please join Pastor Ashley for a lunch-and-learn on Sunday, 5/19**, right after worship in the Chapel. We will be exploring the many options in Traci Smith's *Faithful Families* for creating sacred space in the midst of chaos. Childcare and lunch will be provided!

To RSVP, email Pastor Ashley at:

pastorash80@gmail.com





This month's editor: Sarah Renio
Next Courier deadline: May 13
S.renio@gmail.com



Baptisms

Jackson Durvin was welcomed into the Carmel family with the Sacrament of Baptism during the April 14 worship service. Jackson is the son of David and Meghan Durvin, and Patrick is Jackson's proud big brother.



CONGRATS!! Seven children of our church family receiving their own Bibles from Carmel during worship on April 7. They are: Ava Jones, Kelsey Morton, Olivia-Grace Lin-Ralph, Gabriella Keshisihian, Gregory, Gehard, Shealyn O'Gara, Kevin Rumsey

Children in third grade and up who participate in the church's education, worship, Refuge youth, or choir programs are eligible to receive their own Bibles for reading at home and with their parents. The version chosen for them is the Spark New Revised Standard Bible, a readable and interesting version of the entire Bible designed for youth.



Congratulations to this year's proud Bible recipients on this part of their faith journey and education!!

Hospital List

Prayer list: Hospital and Recuperating

Walt Newman



Carmel Farewell

To our Courier readers, both print and online: I have enjoyed (usually) serving as a Courier co-editor and publicizing Carmel events and people. However, it has now been 16 and a half years since I began as a Courier editor in the summer of 2002 and it is time for me to move on. My family thinks that I disappear into my computer room for 1 ½ to 2 weeks with every issue that I edit.

Beginning with this May issue, Sarah Renio, Carmel's Communications Specialist who began work in January, will be editing the Courier. She has already been getting frequent posts out on Carmel's Facebook page and keeping the Carmel website up to date. Please support Sarah with news updates and articles, as you have for me and my co-editors for so long. Sarah's e-mail address is s.renio@gmail.com. It has been my privilege to work with Betty McGlade, Doris Golingan, and Heidi Lindsay as co-editors of the Courier and a joy to use my longtime love of journalism to spread Carmel's message.

Sincerely, Janet Simon

Class of 2019

Carmel wants to recognize our 2019 high school and college graduates, including graduate school. Please contact the church Office or Courier staff with name, school, degree, parents, honors, and future plans or jobs.



Church Office:
215-887-1074
office@presbycarmel.org



Thank you for the cards, signed letters, flowers, and interest you have given us in the last month. Walt is home recuperating now. The doctors think that he is well on his way to recovery from his hospitalizations. We thank Carol Moll for the dinner she provided for us when I had my cataract surgery. Carmel is a caring church! Anne Newman

Many thanks to Carmel's Angels for rescuing me in the Library on April 4th. I will forever be grateful. Nancy Rose

Many thanks for the beautiful lily I received, and to Lynne Coulter who delivered it. Also, thanks for the many cards sent to me after my surgery. I don't want to do anything like this again -- it is a long recovery! Kay Bauer

Dear Carmel Family, What a nice surprise it was when Linda Parker found us in Rydal's café to tell us she had left a lily at our door. It is really the nicest lily we have ever seen with many blossoms and even more to come! Our windowsill is now overloaded with Easter flowers to remind us of this beautiful season of resurrection of our living Christ! And it was so good to catch up with Linda for a few minutes after she found us. Thank you Carmel Family for remembering us! Grace and peace, Jim and Mary Eby