



Ash Wednesday Observance

February 26, Carmel Hall and Chapel

Join us for dinner and worship on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020. 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. Worship will be led by Refuge and Oasis students.

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.

Saying Goodbye

As the time draws close to my retirement at the end of this month, I sense all the more clearly the wonderful things about being at Carmel as your pastor that I will miss. We have invested our lives together in countless ways: sharing in laughter and in tears, sharing in cooperative efforts and in disagreements, sharing in music and in silence, sharing in profound truths and in frivolous trivialities. We have shared together in life.

Furthermore, I have had the great joy of watching folks learn and grow, take on new challenges and discover new capabilities, succeed and fail, always undergirded by the sustaining love and grace of God. Likewise, I have gone through these same things in my own life (you should want that in a pastor – none of us are a finished product). Hence, I leave this place as a deeper, more whole person, than when I arrived. I know the same is true for many of you.

All I can say in the end is "thank you." Thank you for having me. Thank you for hearing me. Thank you for caring for me. Thank you for letting me have, hear and care for you.

With love,

Jim

Dr. James W. Thornton



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Pastor Jim's Retirement Party

Save
the
Date

Sunday, February 23rd, following worship

Farewell to Jim and Barbara Thornton

Carmel will bid farewell to Jim and Barbara Thornton at the end of February, when Jim enters his “honorable retirement” after 12 and a half years serving as Carmel’s pastor. Rev. Thornton began his ministry at Carmel in the fall of 2007.

Carmel celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry with Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton on June 16, 2019. Dr. Thornton was ordained on June 15, 1979 by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh at the Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Allison Park, PA.

Reverend Thornton was born and raised just outside of Pittsburgh, PA, and graduated from Geneva College in 1976 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biblical Studies. In 1979, he graduated from Gordon Cornwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts with a Masters in Divinity.

His first call was as Assistant Pastor to the Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church in New Castle, PA. In 1982, he became solo pastor at the Mount Jackson Presbyterian Church, also in New Castle, and served them for 10 years. During that period, he served on a task force for the national PC-USA church on “eco-justice,” which reported to the General Assembly in 1990, where its findings were adopted.

Simultaneously, he completed his doctoral program and obtained a Doctor of Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Reformed Focus) in 1990. His most recent called position prior to Carmel was as executive pastor at Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, where he served from 1991-2003. After beginning his ministry at Carmel in 2007, Jim Thornton has also been active in the work of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, especially with the Committee on Ministry.

“In retirement, I plan to pursue traveling, golf, tennis, motorcycling, painting (oils and watercolors), gardening, a multitude of projects on my house, teaching enneagram, and spending many, many hours with my grandchildren,” Jim says.

He also plans to remain active within the Presbytery, where he was recently elected to a three-year term on the Financial Management Commission (Trustees) and has been appointed to chair an Investigation Committee looking into pastoral misconduct.

Congratulations Pastor Jim on 40 years of faithfully shepherding God’s people, and thank you for all you have done for Carmel and its members over the last 12 and half years. We wish you a healthy, happy and well-deserved retirement. —Janet Simon



Barbara Thornton has also been active in the life of Carmel, serving as a Deacon, an Elder, and chairing the Worship and Sacraments Committee, as well as serving on the Nominating Committee and the Stewardship Committee. She has been a faithful member of the soprano section of the Sanctuary Choir.

Barbara relates, “Jim and I met at Geneva, a liberal arts college founded by the Reformed Presbyterian Church. My father, a very conservative evangelical Christian, warned me to ‘look out for those Presbyterians’ at college. And I did look! I found one special Presbyterian and fell in love with him—as well as his teachings of God’s grace and sovereignty.”

For the past 27 years, Barb has been a program manager for the Pennsylvania Bar Association and Institute, where she plans and administers continuing legal education courses for attorneys. Like Jim, she will also be retiring sometime in 2020. She is looking forward to having more free time, visiting family, making renovations to their house, and traveling—especially to Seattle to see their son, his wife and daughter.

“I’ve enjoyed being a member of Carmel, sharing in the work, mission and fellowship of this church, getting to know folks, singing in the choir, and serving as a deacon, elder and 2019 chair of the Worship and Sacraments Committee,” Barb says.

It has been a privilege to be part of our lives over the last 12 years. I have been truly inspired by Carmel’s many volunteers and the dedicated commitment I see in this community of faith. Thank you for your friendship and support over the years. I will miss you, but you will remain close to my heart and prayers. May God bless each of you and Carmel Presbyterian Church!

ROAM February Meeting Plans

ROAM will meet on Wednesday, February 5th, at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Lounge. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Edie Schmidt of Elite Florals, a local flower shop, will teach us about flower arranging. Please bring a container for a small arrangement (2x6, 3x5, 4x4), and a fee of \$15.00 to cover other supplies. Sounds like fun! Please join us!

Questions? Contact Karen Bogle or Gene Morris



This month’s editor: Mary Kate Nolen
Next Courier deadline: March 8

Session begins the New Year with a full slate of enthusiastic officers to serve on our boards, accompanied by a dedicated staff. Session welcomes the following new and returning elders: Class of 2020: Melissa Deacon, Ellen Krieg, Nancy Pinkowicz, Ken Schuyler, Jay Raulinaitis and Barbara Thornton. Class of 2021: David Campbell, Lynne Schutt, Kent Dyer, Anne Newman, Richard Thomas and Bruce Miller; Class of 2022: Eric Krieg, Kelly Rose, Gary Moll, Deborah Gates, Janet Simon and David Lanahan.

With sadness Session accepted Barbara Thornton's resignation from the Board effective the end of February. Hans Stein will complete Barbara's remaining 2020 term.

Session established the following 2020 Session Committees, chairpersons denoted with an asterisk: Christian Education: Janet Simon* and Kelly Rose ; Church Officer Nominating: Nancy Pinkowicz* and David Lanahan; Congregational Life: Melissa Deacon* and Ellen Krieg; Outreach (Evangelism): Ken Schuyler* and David Campbell; Finance, Investments and Insurance: Kent Dyer* and Hans Stein; Personnel: Gary Moll* and Jay Raulinaitis; Property: Lynne Schutt* and Dick Thomas; Stewardship: Anne Newman* and Eric Krieg; and Worship and Sacraments: Bruce Miller* and Deborah Gates. Nancy Pinkowicz will assume the duties as Clerk of Session in 2020. Please feel free to ask questions and share suggestions or concerns with your church officers.



Session Notes

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

Session approved a \$100.00 donation to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

At the request of Christian Education, Session approved a series of evening discussions to be led by Reverend Rossi using NPR's Krista Tippet, the Civil Conversations Project

The Outreach Committee received approval to disburse a total of \$6,000 from Trust Fund B income to Missionaries in the Philippines (Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Philadelphia Presbytery and, Kirkwood Brainerd Camp.

The purchase of a laptop and software was approved for Mary Kate Nolen to perform her Communication Specialist job duties.

As presented by Stewardship, Session approved the Proposed Budget for Church Year 2020 and four special offerings for 2020 – Souper Bowl, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Mission and Christmas Joy.

Finally, Session approved the formation of an Interim Pastor Search Committee with the following members – Janet Simon, Mary Ellen Thomas and Lisa Lent.

—Nancy Pinkowicz , Clerk of Session

refuge

Join us for Souper Bowl for Caring on February 2nd. Wear your favorite NFL jersey to church and donate to support the nationwide fight against hunger and poverty in our local communities. Carmel is supporting the Interfaith Food Cupboard this year with a supporting donation of \$500 from the Deacons. On February 5th, we are hosting Special Person's Night. We share a meal and fellowship, followed by a few mission-focused projects. We're excited to share our enthusiasm for helping others!

—Joyce Kornfeld



Property Notes

One Sunday morning during worship in early November during a heavy rainstorm, the east transept window leaked badly. Dominic Manero has repointed the stone around the stained glass window and has recaulked around the storm window covering the stained glass. We were thankful that we were in the sanctuary to see how bad it was, so we could repair it quickly.

Our big news for the year is that we completed a major update to the lobby, including cleaning and waxing the floor, painting the ceiling and paneling, and purchasing new furniture and accessories. It really brightened our entrance! The lay-out of the furniture is essentially the same as it was before. The old furniture was donated to Restore. The quilt remains on display. — Lynne Schutt



Our thoughts are with Peggy Ann Beck and Joyce Young as they continue their recoveries. We hope to see you both back in worship soon!

Fun and Friendship at Carmel's Annual Christmas Brunch

Carmel's Christmas Brunch, which was held on December 8, was once again a huge success. There were about 145 people who attended and enjoyed the fellowship and festivities. Carmel Hall was transformed into a Christmas Extravaganza, with plenty of delicious breakfast and lunch foods to choose from.



There are many vendors to thank such as Home Depot of West Norriton, Wojtons Nursery in Collegeville, & Yeagers Tree Farm in Phoenixville who gave large discounts on items or decorations supplied. If anyone has been left out, we apologize but are very grateful for your help.

Something new this year were homemade cannoli (about 60), and they were gone within 15 minutes of dessert time. This year's ice sculpture, supplied by icephilly.com, featured an eagle and floral arrangement encased in ice and said "Welcome Carmel Church." Also different this year was a four piece instrument band by the Old Towne Carolers, followed by The Old Towne Carolers vocal group for over 3 hours of seasonal music. Each poinsettia was given to the eldest at each table to take home and enjoy.

Many, many thanks and hats off to the hardworking crew, which included Lisa, Bob, & Jimmy Scholly, Katey & Ken Schuyler, Joyce Kornfeld, Christina & Matthew Rice, Connie Tolton, Carol Moll, David Campbell, Jed Smith & his son Liam (who dished out 72 bowls of ice cream), Linda MacFarland, Melissa MacFarland, Nancy Pinkowicz, David Lanahan, Willard Rice Jr. & his friend who assisted at the omelet station. A big thank you to Mary Ellen & Dick Thomas for giving us clean dishes to eat from and lots of kitchen assistance. A big thank you to Gene Morris who came on short notice to help me personally with some set up.



It takes a lot of work for a function like this to happen and be so successful at Carmel and we hope and pray that this continues to be a tradition at Carmel. So many of you sent cards of thanks and/or sent words of appreciation which have meant so much. Thank you for all of your kind words. It truly has been a joy and an honor to serve on this committee.

--David Rice / Congregational Life



A Visit to the Memory Garden

After the December Christmas brunch and during clean-up, we decided to place the ice sculpture at the memory garden for our loved ones from Carmel to enjoy and to make them part of our festivities. We wanted to remember them and their participation with us over the years.

—Congregational Life



Junior Choir to sing at Choir Festival



Carmel's Junior Choir has been invited to sing in Center City Philadelphia on Saturday, March 14, with other area church Junior Choirs for a Choir Festival. The Festival will be held at Arch Street Presbyterian Church located between the two Comcast skyscrapers in Logan Square. The choirs will meet to rehearse at 9:00 AM in the city and then give a performance at 2:00 PM at Arch Street Presbyterian. The choir has been rehearsing for this event all Fall and Winter. All of the music that they have been singing at Carmel will be sung in a mass choir directed for the day by Tom Shelton. Mr. Shelton has conducted festivals and honor choirs for elementary, middle school and high school students in 20 states and abroad. His compositions are published by more than seven publishing companies. The choir will be singing one of Mr. Shelton's pieces at the Festival. Mr. Shelton is associate professor of Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College/Rider University Princeton, NJ. Everyone is invited to come and hear the performance at 2:00 PM. We hope to see some familiar faces in the audience. We are all so excited about this event.

—Abby Palmisano

Sunday Lectionary Readings



4th Sunday after Epiphany – February 2

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

5th Sunday after Epiphany – February 9

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

6th Sunday after Epiphany – February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Transfiguration of the Lord – February

23 Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday – February 26

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



Dexter James Clayton received the Sacrament of Baptism during worship on December 29. Dexter is the son of **Scott and Abigail Clayton**.

Adelaide Ann Heintz received the Sacrament of Baptism during worship on January 12. Adelaide is the daughter of **Allen James Heintz and Cassandra Paulk Heintz**, and the granddaughter of **Steven and Marleen Heintz**.

Welcome to the Carmel Family!



Sally Hanline will turn 94
on February 2nd
and
Robert Lou Richardson,
will turn 90 on February 23rd

Enjoy your day!

Dear Carmel Friends,

I wish to thank you all for your caring. So many Christmas cards! Thank you also for the beautiful Poinsettia, which was delivered by Shepherd Ruth Kucera. Thank you, Ruth. You truly are a caring family.

Love, *Doris Golingan*



From the Deacons...



The Deacons welcome four new members to the board this year; Denise Abraham, Steve Brunozzi, Abigail Clayton, and Joyce Kornfeld. We are very excited to continue our journey of being called by Christ with these blessed individuals. Lisa Lent is continuing as Moderator for the Deacons, with Jed Smith taking over as Vice Moderator, Steven Heintz, Jr. as Treasurer, and Carol Moll 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.

The Christmas gift collection for the Village was a huge success, with all 100 of the wish lists given to us fulfilled by the generous contributions from members of the church and nursery school. Care packages were sent out to eight undergraduate students and two graduate students from our congregation just before the fall finals, and over the holidays the Deacons made a dedicated effort to visit a number of the members of our congregation who are unable to join us for worship.

The Deacons contributed to a number of organizations through mission interpretation in December, including ALS, The Alzheimer's Fund, Bethanna, Caring/Aid for Friends, Dawn's Place, the DePaul House, Face to Face, the Village, the Interfaith Food Cupboard, the Norristown Hospitality Center, One House at a Time, as well as missionaries Charles and Melissa Johnson.

Thank you for your continued support of the Deacons. 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 Lohoefer, or by calling the office at 215-887-1074.

The Board of Deacons wish you a happy, healthy, and blessed 2020! --*Jedediah Smith*

Meet Our New Officers: Session

Deb Gates arrived at Carmel in 2002. With husband Scott and their sons Carter, 17, and Nate, 14, she lives in Abington Township. Deb is a retired high school guidance counselor and is an active volunteer on Abington Hospital's Women's Board, including their annual June Fete. She enjoys playing platform tennis and golf.

Deb is a member of Carmel's Sanctuary Choir and serves as the Christmas and Easter memorial flower coordinator. She joined Session as a new member because she wanted to contribute to the important work Carmel will face over the next few years.

Eric Krieg joined Carmel from Roslyn Presbyterian three years ago, but it has been 36 years since he first attended Carmel, where he met his wife Ellen Hackman Krieg. They now live in Audubon, near Valley Forge Park, and have three adult children, four grandkids, and one dog. Eric was an electrical engineer for BodiData.

He enjoys backpacking, rock climbing, mountain biking, being a Boy Scout leader, and is a climate change activist. Eric has assisted with worship leading and ushering at Carmel already but agreed to join Session when he "was asked to help," after prior experience as an elder at Roslyn.

David Lanahan has been at Carmel since he began attending Sunday School here about 35 years ago. He lives in the Abington Township side of Glenside, after growing up on the Cheltenham Township side. At Carmel years ago he played in the church basketball league, and more recently he has served as a Deacon, on the Property and Congregational Life Committees, and has cooked for Refuge and for the Christmas and Easter brunches.

David works as a professional chef, and not surprisingly loves to cook, as well as take train trips and go to the shore. His family is deceased. When asked to serve on Session, he replied that it would be an honor to serve. He follows his father Edwin Lanahan as a Carmel Session member.

Gary Moll came to Carmel with his family about 1996. He and his wife Carol celebrated their 30th anniversary on April 1, 2019. (Yes, they were April Fools Day newlyweds!) Their family includes son Tyler, daughter-in-law Cassandra, and a new granddaughter Quinn, born last August. Gary and Carol live in the Ardsley section of Glenside. He currently works for Bux-Mont Transport, driving a mini-van to transport school age students.



Gary has previously served on Session, is currently a member of the Property Committee, and was on the Pastor Nominating Committee that brought Rev. Thornton to Carmel. He is also a co-leader of Oasis, the senior high youth group, an active participant on many Carmel mission trips, and heads up the Men's Building Group for VBS. With Rev. Thornton's retirement, Gary thought that he could help make the transition to interim pastor and then to a new head of staff a little easier by rejoining Session. "I have been around the block a few times," he says.

Kelly Rose has been at Carmel for 22 years. She is a family physician and partner at TriValley Primary Care in Telford and lives in Glenside. Kelly's son Nathan is a freshman at Haverford College, and Aidan is a sophomore at Abington Senior High.

Kelly really enjoys watching her boys participate in their many sporting events. She also loves to cook, read and travel. "I especially love it when all three involve the Caribbean," she says. Kelly decided to join Session because "this time when asked, it just seemed like the right time for me. I am hopeful that I might be able to contribute to the leadership and to the upcoming transitions the church will be undertaking."

Janet Simon came to Carmel in 1980 and joined soon after. She is returning to Session, where she has served many terms, as well as chairing the Christian Ed and Worship and Sacraments Committees. Other Carmel involvement includes Courier co-editor for 16+ years, Presbyterian Women's Circle, library staff, Sunday School Coordinator, mission trips, APNC and interim pastor search committees, VBS and Deacon. She returns to Session because "it is part of my life and heritage and a way in which I can serve my church through contributing my time and experience."

Per Capita Apportionment

Per capita is a Latin term. Did you learn the term when you were in school? You may have had it in Latin class or in a social studies class. Per capita means by heads. Did you notice that the first envelope in your giving envelopes for 2020 is a blue per capita apportionment envelope? It is marked \$32.00.

The 2020 per capita apportionment supports Philadelphia presbytery, our Synod, and General Assembly. All receive portions of this money and all offer nurture and support to Carmel Church. Think of what \$32.00 is similar to: "contributing one's dish to a potluck meal, paying to be connected to the Internet for one month, or paying for the benefits of electricity, water, and telephone for one day or less. ... Your apportionment rate is for one whole year! ...

Be a part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together! " -Presbytery Website

Please remember to fill the per capita envelope with \$32.00 for each communicant member of your family.

— Anne Newman

Meet Our New Officers: Deacons

Denise Abraham found Carmel after she moved back to this area from southern California in 2012. Denise and her daughters Evelyn and Audrey, grades 10 and 8, live in the Abington part of Elkins Park. She is a self-employed yoga instructor who teaches Bikram yoga at several facilities and also a part-time member of the staff at Paris Bistro in Chestnut Hill.

Denise joins the Deacons after previously serving as a Shepherd and has also helped cook for Refuge and participated as a VBS group leader and with the Enneagram group. She loves yoga and running, taking Barre classes and enjoys the great outdoors, food and eating, and playing Scrabble. Keeping up with her daughters' activities also keeps her busy.

Steve Brunozi is moving over to Deacons after serving two terms on Session. Steve and his wife Jessica have been Carmel members for about 7 ½ years. With their two children, Olivia (13) and Gabriel (11), they live in the Springfield corner of Glenside. Steve has been an active Children's and Youth Choir parent, a Vacation Bible School volunteer, and filled in several times as church custodian. His hobbies are tennis, reading, and music appreciation.



Deacon Ministry

Abigail Clayton is a newer member of Carmel in the last two years, although she grew up nearby as a child and attended Carmel Nursery School. Abigail now lives in Jenkintown with her husband Scott and children Beatrice, two years old, and Dexter, two months old. She is also the sister of deacon Jed Smith. This is Abigail's first board involvement. She says, "I wanted to become more involved in the church, and the Deacons were hiring! I look forward to helping to care for the congregation."

Abigail is a nurse consultant with Accolade. She sings with the Abington Choral Club, although is on a break right now. She is also an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy, and enjoys sailing, fishing, and watching the Eagles. However, she says that at present she spends most of her time chasing after Beatrix.

Joyce Kornfeld was a long-term Deacon, followed by six recent years on Session, including chairing the Personnel Committee. She is looking forward to being back with the Deacons this year. Joyce came to Carmel in 1972 when her family moved to Glenside. Her aunt and uncle, the Fritz's, were Carmel members. She presently conveniently lives right down the street from the church.

Joyce is the Manager of Procure-to-Pay at Cenlar FSB in Yardley. Her son Marshall lives in Warminster with his long-term girl friend Elise, and daughter Andrea is married to Vinny Spacone and lives in Clearwater, FL. Joyce is actively involved in Refuge and VBS, volunteering with children and youth in both capacities, and has served as a Confirmation mentor and on numerous committees. She enjoys reading, crafts, and puzzles.

Carmel Nursery School News

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 of work is like for them. We will also be holding our food cupboard donations and focusing on being community helpers ourselves.

Members of the Suburban Dog Training Club will be showing off their dogs to the students on Monday, February 3rd. 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 March 4th, 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.

— Leslie Arrowsmith, Director



Meet our New Officers: Shepherds

Cindy Keshishian has been at Carmel for six years, beginning when her daughters were attending Carmel Nursery School. She lives in the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia with husband Jack and their daughters Gabriella (10) and Sophia (8). Cindy is employed part-time at her daughters’ school, the Armenian Sisters Academy.

Her interests include volunteering at her daughters’ school, bowling, gardening, and home decorating. Cindy joined the Shepherds because she loves being a part of her church community and being able to contribute her time.

Kristin Waldner worked as Carmel’s church secretary from 2012-2017, and joined the church shortly after resigning for another position. She and son Gregory David, almost 10, live in the former Carmel sexton’s house adjacent to Carmel Hall and says, “I am blessed to be here.” Kristin presently works at LaSalle University, her alma mater, in the Student Health Center as their full time Coordinator.

She had previously assisted with Carmel’s Refuge program, but her son’s basketball interest has taken over Wednesday evenings. Her hobbies include volunteering when able at Greg’s school, reading (a big fan of Kristin Hannah), bike riding with her son, and scrapbooking. Kristin has always been interested in doing more for Carmel and is excited to pay it forward as a Shepherd, since they have always been there for Greg and her. She thinks her interactions with so many members at Carmel will help her outreach with the Shepherds.



**Civil
Conversations
Project**

*Speaking together differently in order to
live together differently.*

Join Pastor Ashley as she moderates and hosts this national movement from NPR’s Krista Tippet, the Civil Conversations Project. Through conversation, we can create the realities that we want to inhabit, using the following grounding virtues:

- Adventurous Civility
- Hospitality
- Generous Listening
- Patience
- Humility
- Words that Matter

We’ll gather for meals , pot-luck styles, because good conversation happens around the table. Mark your calendars for the following dates at 6 PM:

*January 10th
February 7th
March 6th
April 3rd
May 8th
June 5th*

People of all backgrounds, ideologies, and persuasions are encouraged to take part in these discussions. In conversation, we deepen relationship, sharing the most meaningful parts of our lives in humble generosity.

**Pastor Search
Committee
Update**



The Interim Pastor Search Committee has begun its work of seeking a transitional/interim pastor for Carmel following Dr. James Thornton’s retirement at the end of February. Committee members approved by Session are Lisa Lent, Mary Ellen Thomas, and Janet Simon, Chairperson. They are receiving guidance from the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry (COM). Please keep them in prayer as they seek the pastor to lead our congregation through the important time of transition, self-study, and calling a new pastor. — Janet Simon

Courier Publication Reminder

As we start off a new year, here’s a reminder of the Courier publication schedule. Shorter length Couriers with shorter articles are published in February, March, May, June, July/August, October and November. These issues are single sheets, legal sized.

In April (or March if Easter falls then), September for fall programming, and December/January the Courier is published in longer, magazine type format with some longer articles. Submissions for Carmel events or member milestones are always welcome, with a deadline of the second Sunday of the preceding month. Both formats are also posted each month on the Carmel website at www.presbycarmel.org in full color. —Janet Simon

Piano Needed



The baby grand piano in our church choir room is over a hundred years old and in need of repair. We have been told that it is not worth putting any money into it. If anyone has a small baby grand piano that they no longer need or use, please let Abby Palmisano, organist and Director of Music at Carmel, know. Thank you so much. —Abby Palmisano