

A Note From Transitional Pastor Peter



Dear Friends,

After a busy Spring examining Carmel through the lens of the seven marks of a vital congregation, we are now in the quieter months of summer.

Thank you for your faithful dedication in attending so many of the **Transitional Ministry Mission Study Conversations** followed by the Sermon Series on the same topics! They were well and consistently attended. Each of the seven marks of vital congregations got a hearing and eager and passionate discussion. Carmel is stronger thanks to our conversations and learnings from the discussions. Our **Transitional Ministry Team (TMT)** will pull together all our notes (and there is still time for you to send in your thoughts from or since the discussions). The TMT plans to sift through the notes in the coming weeks.

Over the seven-week **Mission Study**, I’ve heard the following statements or similar comments or questions several times:

- “We need to work harder on what we’ve **always** done if we’re to move this congregation forward and fill the Sunday School.”
- “What **if** we go back to being the kind of church, we were 30-40 years ago?”

And the two have stuck with me—churning around somewhere inside. There’s something in me that says, “Yes, let’s work harder!” There’s also a voice within that says, “It’s not going to happen!” **That** causes the churning. The circular wondering what direction to go—if there really is **one** direction, rather than **many** approaches?

It’s tempting to go back nostalgically to the “good old days”. Fond memories surface. Smiles appear on faces. Stories are shared. Indeed, we shared some each week. Then, if we compare “those days” with “these days”, sadness settles in on some of us older folks. We mourn. We grieve. However, those fond memories are not really part of **this** generation’s

memory. They are their grandparent’s and sometimes their parent’s stories. But they are not our children’s or grandchildren’s memories. Current indications are that they will not be.

I find the following helpful. Perhaps it might be a “refrain” that we say anytime we find ourselves talking about Carmel and Carmel’s future directions. Say it aloud as you read!

“It’s no longer enough to be the church our grandparents loved. We must become the church our grandchildren will love.”

It makes sense. It helps us frame and re-frame the way we talk and dream about our faith, our doubts, our congregation.

Nevertheless, one **practical** question remains: **“How?”** In one sense, it’s a **mystery**; yet in another sense, it’s very **pragmatic**. That’s why it was so important for everyone—as possible—during our virtual reality days for everyone to participate and search to discover answers for our today’s and future Carmel. So, let’s push **into** the mystery, not because we can find hard and fast answers and solve every vexing challenge, but because **we come to know God more deeply** by facing the unknown honestly and by living up-front with our doubts.

We are a **community**. We share joy and we mourn together.

See **PETER** Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

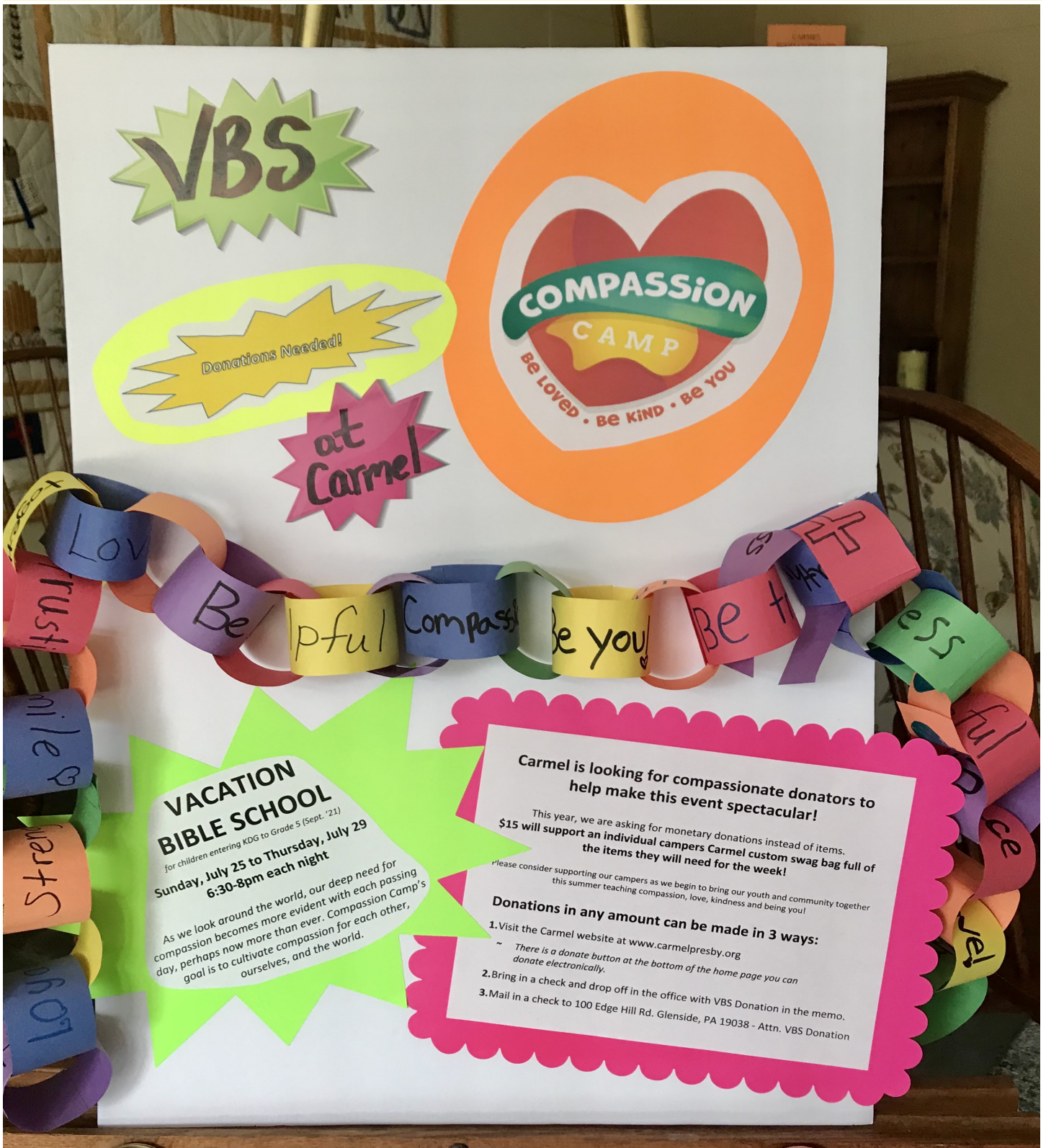
VBS.....	2
Session.....	3
Deacons.....	4
Property.....	5
Shepherds.....	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	5
Graduate.....	5
Stewardship.....	6
New Members.....	6
Baptism.....	6
Thank You.....	6
Lectionary.....	6

Carmel's Vacation Bible School for kindergarten to grade 5

July 25-29, 6:30-8:00 PM

COMPASSION CAMP: "Changing the World with LovingKindness"

LOViNGKiNDNESS



Register online or via mail: Information in Courier or presbycarmel.org;
pre-registration a must! Registration form is attached to the Courier e-mail or click link:

[VBS 2021 Registration Form - Compassion Camp](#)

Volunteers are still needed! Please click on the link below if you wish to help:

[VBS 2021 - Volunteer Sign-up Form](#)

From **PETER** Page 1

We have memories, but more importantly, **we make opportunities and experiences for new and meaningful memories.** Together we learn to help each other patiently and wisely articulate a strong Christian voice for our congregation today. Our TMT will begin to shape what we heard and will share our thoughts with you for more feedback.

Our church that we know, and love has been shaped by many factors—pastors, sure—but it’s you—the members—who make us the congregation we are: generous, loving, openhearted folks, who really believe that God continues to show us the power of love, justice, truth, and forgiveness in the life of Jesus. We will become church for our future days if the following marks of vitality guide us and become our strengths:

Life-long discipleship formation
Intentional Authentic evangelism
Outward incarnational focus
Empower servant leadership
Spirit-inspired worship
Caring relationships
And, ecclesial health

Your presence in worship, your financial support, your commitment to bring and welcome newcomers—these will all make and keep us a strong and vital congregation.

We have a message to share, a church to love, plans to make and commitments to keep, and exciting new future opportunities as we continue to live into the faith. Thank you for your spirit and witness.

With grace and peace,

Pastor Peter



Session Notes



Session Notes

The following items were among the reports and business conducted and approved by Session during the Regular June Meeting via video conferencing on June 13, 2021.

Session approved the baptism of Carter Dane Leffler and received into membership his parents Jennifer and Dane Leffler on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

Session was pleased to learn that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan received during the pandemic was forgiven by the Small Business Association. Session approved the allocation of 25% of the funds to the Nursery School and 75% to the General Fund. This allocation was based on actual payroll disbursed from the time the loan was received through to July 31, 2020.

Christian Education is actively working on plans for Vacation Bible School in July and seeking volunteers to both help and teach.

To bring our members together over the summer, Congregational Life with Session’s approval will hold *Dining in the Driveway* events in June, July and August in Carmel’s Parking Lot. The Committee also received Session’s approval for a gently used clothing drive on June 27th to benefit Laurel House Laurel’s Loft. Personnel Committee reported that Session received the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry approval to the renewal of Reverend Sulyok’s contractor for one year effective April 22, 2021.

Session approved the Property Committee’s request to replace and repair as necessary the slate roof above the choir loft steps at a total cost of \$4,700.

Stewardship Committee has been gathering responses to the recent mailing requesting all members to provide an update to their membership status and contact information. This is a needed project to make sure Carmel’s records are up to date for when we welcome a new Senior Pastor. Session also thankfully approved Mary Ellen Thomas to be a weekly offering counter.

Session approved the Deacon’s June 2021 Mission Interpretation proposal and their request for another Carmel Cook-in for July.

The Church Reopening Task Force received Session’s approval to further relax the guidelines over the summer months of the use of Carmel facilities, including for Sunday worship. There will be no social distancing requirements, no wearing of masks, the congregation will be able to sing during worship, hymnals and bibles will return to the pews, and fellowship time after worship will resume. Hopefully, if the way be clear Carmel will resume to our pre pandemic operations church wide come September 1, 2021. However live streaming of worship will continue so those who are homebound or live out of town can continue to worship with Carmel.

Session approved the purchase and installation of hanging microphones for the Sanctuary to enhance the audio for live streaming of the choirs and the congregation participation at a cost of \$8,423. Funding for this will come from undesignated memorial funds.

Finally, Session agreed to not meet in July and August; however the Session Committees will continue to remain active with their stated responsibilities over these months.

— Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session



Cheers and Happy Summer from the Deacons! We hope everyone is well, and extend our congratulations to the students, parents, and teachers who have weathered a difficult school year and come at long last to summer vacation!

The **Caring for Friends Cook-In** is fast approaching!



With a mission to provide food and friendship to homebound seniors and disabled, the homeless, and families with children in need in the 5-county Philadelphia region, Caring for Friends is a wonderful organization, and the hard work of the Lohoefer's in coordinating this amazing event is truly inspiring! With a goal to prepare 168 meals, activities will commence Sunday July 25th, and will partner with Vacation Bible School to collect food donations for the event.

Volunteers will be needed to prepare/package/freezer a dozen meals at home to then be dropped off at the Carmel kitchen. Donations of food, as well as monetary (or gift card) donations to go toward the purchase of food, will also be graciously welcomed.

****Please look for the sign-up sheet (via email and Facebook) the first week of July, and register as a volunteer or donor!****

There is a great need for Hispanic cuisine, and food donations of rice, beans, rolls and cookies are requested.

For more information about the organization, you can visit <https://caringforfriends.org/>

Ongoing projects:



If you are contemplating any spring cleaning, we ask that you remember the **interfaith food cupboard** (located just inside the lobby). Please check for the current most

needed items on the interfaith food cupboard website at: <https://www.i-fha.org/what-we-do/food-cupboard/>

If you could use a home cooked meal, don't forget **Meals in a Moment!** Carmel members, please reach out to Carol Moll (clmoll@yahoo.com) to request a meal.

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in becoming a deacon, please reach out to me ampmp611@gmail.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com.
God Bless! — Abigail Clayton

From the Music Director

Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs.

I am pleased to announce that all of our church choirs will be back this September for a new season of singing and ringing. Please hold the following dates and times for our first rehearsal.

Children's Choir, for anyone in Grades K-2, will begin on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 from 5:00 PM -5:40 PM.

Junior Choir, for anyone in Grades 3-8, will begin on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.

Youth Choir, for anyone in Grades 9-12, will begin on Sunday, September 12, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.

Sanctuary Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, will begin on Thursday, September 9, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Handbell Choir, for anyone in Grades 6-adult, will begin on Monday, September 20, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

All vocal choir rehearsals will begin in the Choir Room and finish in the sanctuary. Please contact Abby Palmisano, Organist and Choir Director, if you have any questions. New members and friends are always welcome. Church membership at Carmel is not needed to participate in the choir programs. I am looking forward to making music together again. God bless! To God be the Glory!

Sincerely,
Abby Palmisano

News from the Property Committee

Although the pandemic slowed us down, it did not stop our work completely. We discussed problems as they arose via email and we met as needed at church. The Memory Garden was a lovely place to gather! We didn't plan on any improvement projects because we didn't know how much we would need for pandemic spending, such as cleaning and ventilation needs. We did buy a number of hand sanitizing stations located in various places in the church and nursery school.

Our biggest issues concerned the roof, in particular two leaks. One was on the flat roof over the coat room and Pastor Peter's office, which we repaired. The second leak was on the flat roof over the choir loft steps on the pulpit side, which we replaced. As part of that project, Paul Scullin replaced a number of loose and broken slates above the roof.

One item of repair that turned out to also be a nice improvement is the wood roofline trim across the chapel building. You could see that the paint was flaked and the wood was rotted. Mr. Scullin repaired the wood and capped the trim with aluminum that matches the color of the windows. The front of the building looks new and best of all the capping is permanent.



We painted the coatroom and replaced the ceiling fixture with a new hanging fixture. The coat room now looks bright and inviting.

A few members of Property and Congregational Life met and agreed that Fellowship Lounge needed to be updated. The carpeting was stained and rippled, and the ripples couldn't be steamed or stretched out because it was glued down. So our first step was to replace the carpeting. We chose to use the same wood grain vinyl plank flooring that we used in the library hall. Although we ordered it last October, the flooring didn't arrive until the first week of June! The new flooring is down, the furniture is back in place and we're off to a good start.

Committee member Gary Moll has been manning the camera that brings our worship service into your home each Sunday, and Jay Raulinitis has been working the audio. They have been there faithfully every Sunday since December and we thank them for their commitment to Carmel. They would be happy to train you on either the audio or the video hoping you might be willing to volunteer one Sunday a month.

We're looking forward to seeing you in worship soon!
— Lynne Schutt

JULY & AUGUST



Happy Birthday to:

Louise Robinson, who will turn 90 on July 10th

Everett Kohn, Jr., who will turn 90 on August 5th

Doris Golingan, who will turn 92 on August 22nd

Don Baker, who will turn 90 on August 26th

Happy Anniversary to:

Dick & Mary Ellen Thomas, who will celebrate their 51st on July 11th

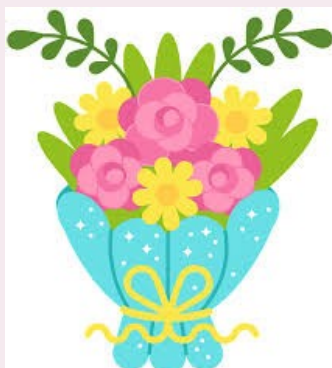
Alan & Beth Cherry, who will celebrate their 64th on August 3rd

William & June Garrett, who will celebrate their 68th on August 15th

Henry & Cynthia Taylor, who will celebrate their 53rd on August 17th

Enjoy your Days!

Shepherds



If you know someone in the congregation who could use a pick-me-up with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, please let me or Melissa Keller know:

Bcherry56@aol.com or 215-460-5594
melissakeller@verizon.net or 215-887-1447

Also, we are still looking for some happy sheep to help us on Sundays! Please call and join us!
— Beth Cherry



Congratulations to **Robert Scholly III, son of Bob and Lisa Scholly**, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Scranton with a major in marketing from the Kania School of Management.

Stewardship



At the beginning of the year, Ses-
sion sent a letter informing all of us
that Carmel has joined the Amazon
Smile program. We have received
our first payment. Thank you to all
who have contributed through this

program. If you regularly purchase from Amazon,
please join our Smile program and donate to Carmel
at no cost to you.

Thank you to all who completed our survey of Carmel
membership. At this writing there have been 118 indi-
vidual responses. Many of you have updated phone
numbers, addresses, and email addresses. For those
of you who have not responded, please complete and
submit this simple survey. We will be able to better
support your connection with God and Carmel.

This summer feels more like normal. Maybe we will
be able to spend vacation time in the mountains or at
the shore. Wherever we spend our summer, please
remember to continue to support Carmel with your
pledges and donations.

—Anne Newman



Dane & Jennifer Leffler

who were welcomed into the
Carmel Church Family on June 13th

Baptism

Congratulations to **Carter Dane Leffler**, son of new
members **Dane & Jennifer Leffler**, who was baptized
at Carmel on June 13th!

Thank You

Sincere thank you to Melissa Keller for stopping by to
deliver flowers from Carmel for our family. We ap-
preciate all the thoughts and prayers we have re-
ceived during this time of sadness for Violet’s passing.

~The Toltons



We need your help live-
streaming Sunday morning wor-
ship! We only have a few vol-
unteers who facilitate the
livestream every week, and we
need more! We will be happy to train! It is not diffi-
cult. Please contact Gary Moll at 215-264-0221 or
e-mail garylmoll@yahoo.com

Lectionary



July

July 4th

Ezek. 2:1-5
Psalm 123
2 Cor. 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 11th

Amos 7:7-15
Psalm 85
Eph. 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 18th

Jer. 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Eph. 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25th

2 Kgs. 4:42-44
Psalm 145
Eph. 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



August

August 1st

Exod. 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78
Eph. 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 8th

1 Kgs. 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Eph. 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 15th

Prov. 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Eph. 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 22nd

Josh. 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Eph. 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 29th

Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

