



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

April 2009



Sunday, April 5 10:00 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Service of Holy Communion
Sanctuary Choir singing Fauré's Requiem
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Thursday, April 9 7:00 p.m.
Mundy Thursday
Service of Holy Communion



Friday, April 10 2:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Community Worship Service
Claremont United Methodist Church



Sunday, April 12 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday

Brass Ensemble
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, April 19 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

University of Redlands Chapel Singers
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, April 26 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick
President of World Alliance of Reformed
Churches preaching
Worship Celebration in Honor
of the Calvin Jubilee
500th Anniversary of John Calvin's birth

Calvin Jubilee 2009

This year Reformed Christians all over the world are marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin.

I know. That is not a party many of us would rush to attend. If we think of John Calvin at all, we think of him as an embarrassing old uncle, upsetting every family gathering with rants about predestination.

The truth is far more fascinating and complex. Though Calvin's manner and habits would likely seem strange and even forbidding to modern sensibilities, his core convictions both shaped the world we know and speak to contemporary issues. A full reading of Calvin's work reveals a man:

- Committed to education for people of every class and station, not just the social elite who were generally the only educated segment of society in those days.
- Passionate about teaching lay people to know and interpret the scriptures
- Dedicated to social justice. Calvin was trained as a lawyer and believed that Biblical principles of justice should be applied to all aspects of society. His sermons included denunciations of greed among the rich, condemnations of unnecessary warfare and violence, and exhortations to use land in a manner that did not destroy the soil or harm its resources for future generations.

This April we will begin our own Calvin Jubilee at CPC by showing a film on The Life and Legacy of Calvin on April 19 and by welcoming The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, current president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, for a special worship service and forum on April 26.

It's a party! Invite your friends!

Karen Sapio

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

Sunday, April 5

1. The final session of “Cultivating Contentment” led by Rocky Supinger.

2. The final session of “Coffee and a Good Book” led by David Menefee-Libey and Dick Johnson.

Sunday, April 12

Happy Easter! No classes meeting

Sunday, April 19

The Claremont premier of the film *John Calvin: His Life and Legacy* produced by Witherspoon Press. Jane Dempsey Douglass will lead.

Sunday, April 26

Keynote Speaker: the Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick speaking on “The Legacy of Calvin for a World He Never Imagined.” See more information about Rev. Kirkpatrick’s visit on the next page.



A Letter of Thanks to CPC’s PYGs Come Join Us!

On February 8, the PYGs welcomed Bernard Kabibu and Dr. Leon Mubikaye from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After an evening of sharing, fun, and conversation, the PYGs decided to commit part of their 2009 budget to support Mr. Kabibu’s and Dr. Mubikaye’s hospital. The following letter was received from them on February 17.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We warmly greet you from Camas, WA. We need to thank you for your generous contribution in the amount of \$165 to support IMCK-GSH’s [The Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai’s Good Shepherd Hospital] health ministries.

We are very encouraged by the interest in your church and the willingness to establish partner relationships between IMCK and your congregation. We pray that God will continue to use us all for the furtherance of His kingdom.

We will be sure that your donation be [used] wisely and honestly to promote the health care services in this part of the world.

Your brothers,
Leon & Bernard

We hope that you have enjoyed the CPC Performing Arts Series which has brought music, drama and dance performances to CPC and the community. The committee (PPAC) that organizes these performances is looking for new members from CPC and the community who will share their ideas and help continue to bring exciting entertainers to the Performing Arts Series.

PPAC is under the auspices of the CPC Evangelism and Nurture Commission. The committee meets quarterly beginning in September and ending in May. It is led by a moderator who also publishes the meeting minutes. Other positions include treasurer, booking coordinator, performance coordinator and reception coordinator. The committee’s responsibilities include: seeking, observing and evaluating entertainers, selecting each season’s performers and recommending them for approval, booking the performers, marketing and coordinating the performances and arranging receptions.

If you would like to be part of the committee that makes the Performing Arts Series a reality, please contact Karen Sapio at karensapio@claremontpres.org. We hope to hear from you soon!



Children/Youth Worship Experience

Come celebrate with us as we honor the Jewish holiday of Passover.

We’ll meet in Room 7 at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 19.

All youth, from pre-school through high-school, are invited.



In honor of the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin
Claremont Presbyterian Church

presents:

Conversations with Calvin: The Reformed Legacy Worldwide

Special Guest - The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick
President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches

Sunday, April 26, 2009
at Claremont Presbyterian Church

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education Forum
Kirkpatrick Speaking on the Theme:
"The Legacy of Calvin for a World He Never Imagined"
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration
Clifton Kirkpatrick preaching
- 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Presentation and Discussion:
"A Calvinist Revolution for the 21st Century"
(A light dinner will be served.)



The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick
with Pope Benedict XVI

The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick serves as President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). The World Alliance of Reformed Churches is a fellowship of 75 million Reformed Christians in 214 churches in 107 countries. Its member churches are Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed and United churches with roots in the 16th-century Reformation led by John Calvin, John Knox and others. WARC has a small secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

Rev. Kirkpatrick was elected as leader of WARC at the Alliance's 24th General Council in Accra, Ghana in 2004. He is responsible for chairing the Executive Committee, for being the public spokesperson for the Alliance, and for furthering the commitments of the Alliance for justice in the economy and the earth. He also serves as Visiting Professor of Global Ministries and Ecumenical Studies at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

This event is made possible by CPC's Marion Smale Endowment for Distinguished Visitors.

**The Presbyterian Youth Group (PYGs)
of Claremont Presbyterian Church is going to
Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico this summer!**

Join us August 1-8 as we take a life-changing trip to the U.S./Mexico border with Borderlinks. We'll explore Tucson and Nogales; we'll work at a community center; we'll meet important community leaders; we'll stay overnight with a Mexican family; we'll play with kids. We'll do all of this and more as we experience the border for the sake of God's mission.

Cost: \$300 per person (covers lodging in Tucson and Nogales, transportation within Mexico, and meals for five days.) Participants will be expected to participate in fundraising activities as well.

How do I sign up? Watch your mail for application materials.

More information: www.borderlinks.org

**PYGs Kickoff
Mission Trip
Preparation**

On Sunday evening, April 26, CPC's high school youth group (the PYGs), will provide a chili dinner during the presentation of The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, a Smale Distinguished Visitor. Attendees at the talk and dinner will have the opportunity to contribute toward the fundraising goal for the PYG mission trip in August.

The event will begin at 4:00.

People in the Church: Rizek Abusharr

“We hid in a convent to avoid being forcibly evicted.” So began the tale of Rizek Abusharr, speaking of events of 1948 in Palestine. These events, in which Jewish leaders prior to Israeli statehood targeted Palestinian villages for future destruction and extinction, are well-known to Palestinians, but have long been unknown to most others, officially denied by the Israeli government, and only recently acknowledged by Israeli historians such as Benny Morris. Rizek and his family survived and managed to maintain their home in Jerusalem. As he grew to manhood, Rizek looked for ways to bring about peace between Jews and Palestinians as both claimed the same land as their own. In 1955 he began to work for the YMCA in Jerusalem.

Rizek and Alice Abusharr now live in Pilgrim Place. They are frequent visitors to CPC. Last summer Rizek and Alice led a tour group that included several CPC members to Israel and Palestine. An accomplished public speaker, he has made numerous presentations to local groups. He quickly became a leading member of the local Interfaith Working Group on Middle East Peace, a group composed of Muslims, Jews and Christians. Together they sponsored several informational events.

Then came the recent Israeli military invasion of Gaza, an action deplored by many human rights groups, including Amnesty International, for its indiscriminate brutality, a charge vociferously denied by the Israeli government. In its aftermath, Rizek resigned from the Interfaith Group. I asked to interview him because I wanted to know why. Had his Christian faith deserted him? What had changed?

The answer lies in what it means to be a Palestinian Christian. Rizek had been raised in the Orthodox tradition. Alice, however, had been a Presbyterian since 1949, and while courting her, Rizek accompanied her to St. Andrews Church regularly. In 1961 he too joined St. Andrews and in 1975 became the Session Clerk and at the same time the Clerk of the Presbytery of Jerusalem, “possibly the tiniest Presbytery on the face of the earth,” he noted wryly. “We had two charges only, the Church in Jerusalem and the Church in Tiberias. We also had oversight over the Church school in Jaffa.” He served until 2006 as Senior Elder and 2001 as Clerk of Presbytery.

His work at the YMCA received commendations, and Rizek became the local Director in 1975, the Director General in 1996, and held that position until he retired in 2001. During those years he dedicated himself to efforts at reconciliation, what he called “bringing the warring parties together.” They started with a swim school for children, creating groups with equal numbers of Jews and non-Jews. The effort was always to get people to recognize each other as equals, so they could have respect for each other. Eventually they expanded to pre-school, after-school, and youth teen club groups, culminating in a young adult club. Their success brought many international visitors, including Hillary Clinton, who, during the tour, pointed to the children and blurted out, “I can’t tell the difference!” Perhaps, thought Rizek to himself, that’s the point. “At the Y,”

he told me, “everybody felt equal.”

For Rizek, who incidentally is an accomplished gardener, these efforts were a “seedtime.” The children would eventually be the strong trees of a new community. Once peace would come to the Middle East, the people nurtured by Rizek would be needed to teach others how to overcome the long years of fear, distrust and bitterness.

But where is that peace? When will it come? And what must be endured in the meantime? Look at Gaza. The Israeli military, using American supplied weapons, killed one hundred Palestinians for every Israeli who died. In the aftermath many more Palestinians died in hospitals that lacked necessary supplies. Peace cannot come, Rizek thought, as long as the United States uncritically gives Israel everything it wants and refuses to tell that country, as its own Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has, that an Israel that does not change its policies toward the Palestinians is headed for its own disaster. The only way to peace is for Israel to cease its occupation of Palestinian lands. Believing that the Interfaith Working Group on Middle East Peace could not bring itself to make that demand, Rizek resigned.

And what of God? How long must Palestinians endure an increasing burden, as Israeli settlements relentlessly continue to expand and gobble up their land, as innumerable checkpoints make even the simplest visit between neighboring villages an interminable endeavor, and as the notorious Wall slices through Palestinian lands and communities, further destroying their society? Where is God?

I asked specifically about Palestinian Christians, and Rizek told me that in 1967 Jerusalem numbered 100,000 inhabitants, of which 32,000 were Christians. Today Jerusalem has grown to 750,000, but the number of Christians has shrunk to 10,000. “Many find it impossible to get good jobs or good education for their children. They leave. The churches are emptying. Soon they will be merely museums.” Rizek’s own sons came to the United States for their college education – and stayed.

Yes, Rizek said, there is despair, but we have to keep some hope alive. He quoted a favorite Biblical passage: “Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31). He might have been thinking of the popular song derived from that verse:

“Those who wait upon the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles.
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.
Teach me Lord, teach me Lord, to wait.”

Kenny Rogers and Stuart Hamblen

Before I left, Rizek took me to his computer and showed me a beautiful picture of his home in Jerusalem, a mixture of pride and sadness filled his eyes. “When we first lived there,” he told me, “the neighborhood was entirely Palestinian. Now there are only three families left. The rest are all Jews.”

~by Dick Johnson

Guided Choristers

In the fall of 2008 our children's music program joined the California Chorister's Guild. The Chorister's Guild is a Christian organization that enables leaders to nurture the spiritual and musical growth of children and youth. In addition to connecting choral directors with quality children's music, CCG sponsors a wonderful Children's Choral Festival every spring.

On Saturday, May 2, CPC's Lyric Choir will journey to St. Mark's in Newport Beach for the annual Chorister's Guild Children's Choir Festival. Our children will join children from all over the L.A. area as they sing four combined songs and work with guest clinician Rebecca Thompson. Ms. Thompson is the founder and former director of the Los Angeles Children's Choir. Currently

living in the east, she continues her music teaching with children as director of children's choirs at Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville and as music teacher at Kentucky Country Day School.

I have participated in many CCG festivals over the years. It's always been my experience that the children I bring to the festival leave with a greater understanding of music and how important their role is in making it wonderful. It is powerful moment as we experience hundreds of children collaboratively singing praises to God. The festival is a morale boost and a great encouragement to directors and children.

I look forward to the sharing this year's festival with the children of CPC! -

~Melissa M. Landis



CPC Music Interns

The CPC Sanctuary Choir has been blessed this year by the presence of two music interns and we thought the church might enjoy getting better acquainted with these talented additions to the choir. The internship is funded by the Stoddard Music Intern Fund, a bequest made to CPC many years ago.

Christopher Kaelberer is singing baritone in the choir and is a sophomore at the University of La Verne where he is a Business Administration major (emphasis in Management) and a Music minor. Born and raised in the United Arab Emirates, he now resides in Rancho Cucamonga. In addition to his duties with the choir and his studies, he stays very busy with Student Government, Mu Phi Epsilon (the International Music Fraternity), and serving as the Vice President for the University of La Verne Chorale. He plans to go to graduate school in business or education and would like to work in sports business or University administration. Before joining choir his senior year in high school, he gained music experience playing the trumpet, violin, viola and piano. He currently studies voice and sings both tenor and baritone with his college choir. He says he is grateful to the CPC choir and church for welcoming him with open arms!

Nicholas Gonzalez is singing bass in the choir and is a senior at the University of La Verne where he is a Psychology major with a double minor in Biology and Music. He is from La Puente, California and he got involved with music early, playing the percussion in his grade school's band. Within a year he switched to trumpet and he focused on that until late high school. While in


high school, he also taught himself to play the flute, clarinet, the alto and tenor saxophones, French Horn, and continued his interest in percussion. He participated in many different ensembles such as marching and concert band, jazz band, drumline, orchestra, and handbell choir. His senior year, his high school choir director asked him to try out for choir and he immediately fell in love with singing. He joined both the University Chorale and the University Chamber Singers at the University of La Verne and has studied voice under Dr. Stephen Gothold and Dr. Todd Harper.

In addition to his studies and music obligations, Nicholas is very busy working as a shift supervisor at Starbucks Coffee Company and in the Office of Student Life at the university. He also is very involved in his community and in various clubs and organizations on the La Verne campus. Nicholas would like to thank Claremont Presbyterian Church for welcoming him into the community and for the opportunity to sing with the choir. The choir is delighted that both men have made time in their busy schedules to sing with us.

Welcome Chris and Nicholas!

CPC Staff Email Addresses

Karen Sapio	karensapio@claremontpres.org
Rocky Supinger	rsupinger@claremontpres.org
David Lutz	davidglutz@ca.rr.com
Susan Townzen	susan@claremontpres.org
Joan Leibeck	joan@claremontpres.org
Jenelle Westerbeck Anderson	b-j-n-anderson@sbcglobal.net
Melissa McIntosh Landis	vocalart@verizon.net
Jo Colclough	jcolclough@claremontpres.org



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Editor: Jo Colclough

Pastors
Karen Sapio
Rocky Supinger

Church School
9:00 a.m.
(Except in Summer)

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

Performing Arts Series 2008/09

Look closely at the picture below and you may recognize the faces of CPC Youth.
Come hear Sally Soto, Jess Croughan and Patrick Bernal in the

Claremont High School Jazz Band

directed by **Rick Melanson**

Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.



The CHS Jazz Band is composed of 38 youth that attend jazz class during zero period (this is early morning before most of the other classes start.) The instruments played include: Saxophones (Alto, Tenor, and Baritone), Trombones, Trumpets, Flute, Drum Set, Piano, Vibraphone, Guitar, Bass, and on occasion, vocalists from the Choir program of Mr. Joel Wilson. The CHS Jazz Band plays anything from big band to funk, including tunes sung and played by Frank Sinatra (*Fly Me To The Moon, I've Got You Under My Skin, Witchcraft*), the Count Basie Orchestra (*Moten Swing, All of Me*) and The Tower of Power (*What is Hip?*) Some other songs include *Blue*

Bossa (composed by Kenny Dorham), *Why Musicians Can't Dance* (Bill Liston), *The Chicken* (Pee Wee Ellis), *Georgia on My Mind* (composed by Hoagy Carmichael, made famous by Ray Charles), and countless others. In April 2008, the CHS Jazz Band traveled to the Reno Jazz Festival and also participated in jazz competitions sponsored by Upland High School, Fullerton College, Riverside City College and Brea Olinda High School. In 2007, the CHS Jazz Band competed at Riverside Community College to take 1st place, and Western States Jazz Festival at Upland High School for 3rd place.

Rick Melanson is the director of the CHS Jazz Band. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at the USC Thornton School of Music. Rick has been teaching at CHS since the fall of 2005. He teaches Music Appreciation and the Guitar classes and is the director of the El Roble Jazz Band as well. Rick is a professional musician. He loves jazz, and has his own jazz group. Rick strives to make Jazz Band fun, enjoyable and challenging for the participants. He is also able to share his experience as a professional with them. The kids love to perform and love the challenge of learning new music.

~Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee

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Claremont Presbyterian Church
 1111 North Mountain Avenue
 Claremont, CA 91711
 (909) 624-9693

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Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: April 15

New Pictorial Directory Coming

The Evangelism & Nurture Commission is pleased to announce that a new pictorial directory is planned for CPC. Pictures will be taken the last two weeks of April. See the flier included with this issue of the *Communicator* for more details.

Chapel Singers to Visit

The University of Redlands Chapel Singers will be our guests in worship on Sunday, April 19. They will also offer a free concert in our sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon. CPC member Sean Hughes is a member of the group.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 02/28/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$72,510	\$90,833
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	23,504	11,417
Expenses	(98,131)	(107,722)
VARIANCE	(2,227)	(5,472)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 02/28/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$94,305	103,979
Expenses	(91,946)	(107,191)
VARIANCE	2,359	3,212

PW Prayer Chain

If you or a loved one are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. Please contact Carolyn Knight with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.

A more complete financial report is available in the church office.