



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

April 2010



APRIL

Worship Plans

Thursday, April 1 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
Worship Service
CPC Sanctuary

Friday, April 2 1:30 p.m.

Good Friday
Community Service
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
830 West Bonita Avenue
Claremont

Sunday, April 4 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday
Service of Holy Communion
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering received
CPC Sanctuary

Sunday, April 11 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter
John 20:19-31
The Rev. David Lutz preaching
CPC Sanctuary

Sunday, April 18 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter
John 21:1-19
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
CPC Sanctuary

Sunday, April 25 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
John 10:22-30
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
CPC Sanctuary

The Lent Event: What's Next?

As your April Communicator arrives, Lent is drawing to a close and Easter is at hand. Where will we go next with the energy, questions, and insights we have gained from our Lenten focus on Unbinding Our Hearts?

Here is what I have heard from our small group leaders, small group members and those who have responded to some of the "interactive" portions of our Lenten worship services:

- People are hungry for opportunities to talk about their spiritual journeys and to share about their lives in significant ways. People want the chance to pray for one another.
- People are intrigued and challenged by the question of what evangelism would look like for Christians who see themselves as open-minded, thoughtful and respectful of other faith traditions.
- People miss the groups that used to exist at CPC to connect people and encourage community: Perks, FAFFA, Dinners for 8, Clippers, Cruisers, etc.
- People recognize that we could do a much better job welcoming visitors, nurturing new members and reaching out to members we have not seen in a while.
- People see a need to communicate better about opportunities for community involvement and advocacy. We are doing a lot, but people are not clear on how to get connected.

As we move ahead, our church leaders will seek to discern how best to act on what we are hearing and learning. Please pray for: wisdom and insight, fresh ideas and courage, and that many will be moved to offer the gift of their time and energy to be part of what God is doing in our midst.

Karen Sapio

Sunday Morning at Nine - Adult Education

Sunday, April 11

Keynote Address

Fellowship Hall

“Interreligious Living for Christians”

The presenter, Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, is Professor of Practical Theology and Religious Education at Claremont School of Theology, and Professor of Anglicanism at Episcopal School of Theology at Claremont. Her scholarly contributions include twelve books and numerous articles, reports, and presentations. Her teaching interests encompass pastoral care, congregational mission, and spiritual communities, as well as religious education. She is an ordained Episcopal priest who is currently a Canonically Resident Clergy of the Diocese of Los Angeles. Her service to the church and profession involves urban initiatives, women’s projects, pastoral counseling education, and spiritual formation, among others. The Rev. Dr. Kujawa-Holbrook is an engaging speaker and dialogue partner.



April 18 - May 16 (Five Sundays)

“Science and Religion”

The scientifically curious will have a Sunday School outlet all their own. For five weeks, Pastor Rocky, Scott Randles, and a host of others will explore the leading edges of discovery in cosmology, biology, physics, and more, connecting them to Christian belief and experience. Bring your questions and your convictions.

April 18 - May 9 (Four Sundays)

Chapel

“New Insights In Old Familiar Places - Radical Perspectives from Prophetic Biblical Texts”

You are invited to join Butch Henderson, Senior Pastor Emeritus of Claremont United Church of Christ, in sharing some surprising Eureka’s from familiar Biblical texts. Dr. Henderson said, *“These insights changed my mind, my understanding of scripture, my ministry as a preacher, and nourished my soul. To borrow a phrase from Jesus Scholar Marcus Borg, I encountered these familiar texts ‘again for the first time.’”*

Holy Week



Palm Sunday, March 28

10:00 a.m. Worship at CPC

Procession with palms

Children’s Choirs and Bell Choir



Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Communion Service at CPC

The Sanctuary Choir will sing “Kyrie”

by Schubert and “Agnus Dei” by Barber



Good Friday, April 2

Community Worship Service at 1:30 p.m.

at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

830 West Bonita Avenue, Claremont



Easter Sunday, April 4

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship at CPC

Rejoice in the news of the risen Lord!

The Sanctuary Choir will feature various “Alleluia” and “Hallelujah” settings

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received

Confirmation Hits Home Stretch

On a very foggy mountain weekend at the end of February, five 9th graders (and some of their adult mentors) dished about God and the story of their lives. They stuck countless sheets of construction paper to the wall. They ate more Goldfish crackers than is advisable. They slept to the hum of Crestline traffic.

This was the annual confirmation retreat, very generously hosted by Crestline Community Presbyterian Church and their Pastor, Tom Rennard.

As hoped, the retreat was a great opportunity for CPC's 9th graders to ask important questions about Christian faith and to examine the trajectory of their own lives in light of God. Mentors Robin Owens, Stuart Lillich, and Josey Saez-Acevedo were all instrumental in listening to the



confirmands and guiding their thinking and reflecting.

The confirmation process has now entered its final phase: 10 weeks of group meetings with Pastor Rocky to explore things like the Bible, creation, miracles, vocation, and more. Scott Randles, a high school science teacher, will be a valuable resource to our confirmands as they examine Christian faith claims in light of modern science.

As always, your prayers are very valuable to our confirmands – Ellen Blaine, Angel Ku, Dalia Ku, Caitlin McHugh, and Jeffrey Doebler. They have come a long way and have done some very important work.

Youth Ministry Marches into Spring

After a month of Bible storytelling and some night hiking, the junior high and high school youth of CPC are striding into April. Six of them will experience the Vermont Square neighborhood of South Los Angeles during the first week of the month for the annual work trip. But PYGs and PYGlets will use the month to help out closer to home as well. On Friday night, the 16th, youth are invited to a Youth Night Out at Boomers (1500 W. 7th Street, Upland) hosted by Inland Valley Hope Partners. For \$15.00, youth will enjoy unlimited Rock Wall, Go-Karts, Miniature Golf, Cosmic Golf, Bumper Boats and a Pizza Hut Personal Pizza with a drink. Each youth is encouraged to bring at least two cans of food or other non-perishable items for IVHP's food pantries.

Call Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693 with any questions about youth programming in April.



A Bible of Their Own

On April 11 we, as a congregation, have the opportunity to share the beauty and wonder of God's word to us in a very special way during our worship service. During our "Time with the Children," we will be giving Bibles to our children who are in the third grade, as well as children who are older and have not had the opportunity to receive a Bible from Claremont Presbyterian Church. Preceding the worship service we will have a breakfast for the children receiving Bibles and for their families. If you have a child who would like to receive a Bible on this day, please contact Krista Wuertz at the church (909) 624-9693 ext. 309.



*How sweet
are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth.*
-Psalm 119:103

You Can Help with VBS

Summer vacation is coming soon! Here at Claremont Presbyterian Church this means that Vacation Bible School is coming. It will be held Monday, July 5 – Friday, July 9 in the evening. In order to transform our church campus into the Egypt of Joseph and his brothers we are going to need the participation of the church community. Do you like working with children? Would you like to share the love of Jesus Christ with a child from the community? If so, we can use your talents to bring the rich stories of our faith to life with the children. If you would like to be involved in creating wonderful learning opportunities for the youth in our community, please contact Krista Wuertz at (909) 624-9693 ext. 309.

It's Our Birthday!!! ... and You Are Invited to a Party.

On Sunday, May 23, 2010, CPC will celebrate its 55th birthday. We picked this day to celebrate because it is Pentecost Sunday and the Spirit of rejoicing that signifies that holy day is the same Spirit that we hope will always prevail in the life of our beloved church.

We plan to celebrate with a "reverse" birthday gift: a gift *from* CPC to the work of Christ's gospel in the world. There will be two birthday gifts given during our celebration which will take place during worship. One of the gifts will go to the First Presbyterian Church of Pomona (www.pomonapres.org). This is the church that sent out members of their congregation to start a church in Claremont. These early "missionaries" will be honored at this celebration.

The other gift will be given to the Near East School of Theology (www.theonest.edu.lb) which continues to be so vital in training ministers to take the love of Jesus to so many in this troubled region.

You will soon receive your personal invitation through the mail. Please plan to attend this "gala" event in honor of Christ's ministry in our community.



The 55th Anniversary Committee:
Ruth Mickel*, Honorary Chairperson,
Paula Pitzer*, Mark Greenwood,
Peggy Trindle, Dorothy Whitham,
Karen Sapio, Rick Whitham*,
Bernadine Greenwood,
Dee Kelley, Coordinator

*Charter Members

CPCC Fundraisers

Mark your calendars: the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center is delighted to invite you to participate in two fundraising events in April:

- On Monday, April 12 from 5:00 till 8:00 p.m. we will have CPCC night at El Rancho Restaurant (984 W. Foothill Blvd, Claremont, telephone 624-8824.) If you bring a flyer or mention that you are there with the CPCC group, the center will receive a percentage of your receipt. Besides enjoying a tasty meal, this is an opportunity to see friends and make new ones, and to support the Children's Center.



- There will be a book fair hosted by Mrs. Nelson's Bookstore from April 12 through April 16 in the PYG Room. Please stop by to browse the wonderful selection of books. If at any time during that week you would like to volunteer with setting up, working the cash register or helping in other ways, please call Children's Center Director, Sacha Lord at (909) 626-6261.

The Great Escape Weekend Memorial Day Weekend May 29-31!

Join family and friends from CPC for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation in the Santa Ynez Mountains at the beautiful Rancho La Sherpa Conference Center. Just a two-hour drive up the coast, the conference center is located 15 miles north of Santa Barbara in the Los Padres National Forrest, overlooking the Channel Islands and the Central Coast. The grounds are large and inviting and offer many things to do, or not. The cabins are comfy and warm and easily accessible. The food is prepared for you, and you are welcome to spend time as you wish. There is a High Ropes course that is available for an additional fee, if you wish to challenge yourself physically.

The cost is \$133.50 per person (\$9 less for kids ages 4-9 and those under 3 are free.) This includes two nights lodging and six meals. We are accepting payments through May 2. There is very limited scholarship money available.

We have eight families signed up for the weekend. Please consider coming too!

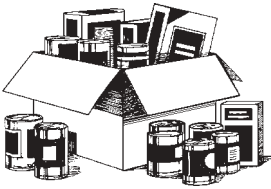
Visit the website for more information: www.pccci.org.

Questions? Contact Shelley Randles.



April Food Drive

During the month of April the Deacons are once again collecting food donations for the Beta Center. As a member of the Inland Valley Hope Partners, we at CPC have made an ongoing commitment to support their programs for the hungry and homeless in our communities.



The Beta Program Center serves an average of 2,800 individuals a month. Staples such as rice, beans, peanut butter, canned meat, and baby food are always in demand. Please bring your donations to the narthex during April. The last date for collection will be April 25. Let's do our best to try to collect at least 1,200 items.

Join In a Unique Singing Experience

It is called "Sacred Harp" but it does not involve a stringed instrument. Sacred Harp Singing, or Shape Note Singing is one of the oldest musical traditions in the USA. We have a unique opportunity to experience it for ourselves here at CPC in a special weekend planned by the Performing Arts Committee and the Smale Distinguished Visitor Committee. See your insert for all the details!



Wednesday, April 21 at The Claremont Forum

Wednesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. the film *Heart of Stone* will be screened at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street in Claremont.

Before 1960, Weequahic High School was known as one of the top schools in America. By 2000 it was one of the most violent schools in the 12th most dangerous city in the country. *Heart of Stone* is the true story of Weequahic High School's quest to return to its former glory.

When Ron Stone took over as principal in 2001, gangs ruled the school. Crime and shootings were commonplace and during his first month on the job he watched students engage in a mass brawl in every hallway. Stone knew his work was cut out for him and devised an unconventional plan to realize his vision of turning the school around.

Heart of Stone shows how disparate groups can join together to give their old communities something they have not had for generations - a future.

Getting Ready for Sixty

We at Claremont Presbyterian Church will celebrate our 55th Anniversary this May. At that time we will share special memories and launch a church history project that will help us preserve those memories for future generations. Many of those memories are stored in cardboard boxes in what a previous staff member called "the dungeon" underneath the Sanctuary. The others are stored in your minds. It has been suggested that these be sorted through and compiled into a presentation for the 60th Anniversary celebration. Naturally those who made the suggestion are now the committee to organize the project. But they need your help.


All of you have stories to tell about your own personal history with CPC, and we are asking you to come forward and tell them. Perhaps you even have a cardboard box or two with other memorabilia that we can put with ours. Even though the celebration is five years away we need to start now. Please let us know if you are willing to share your memories and we will meet with you at your convenience to hear your stories.

The committee is excited about this project and we have already shared a few stories of our own. Please call the church office at (909) 624-9693 and make a date with us to share your memories.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 02/28/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 84,277	\$ 87,500
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	10,661	12,367
Expenses	(108,909)	(105,097)
VARIANCE	(13,971)	(5,230)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 02/28/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 69,678	73,042
Expenses	(66,385)	(82,059)
VARIANCE	3,293	(9,017)

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



The *Communicator* is published monthly (except in summer) by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please contact the church office by the 15th of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693, email jcolclough@claremontpres.org or fax to (909) 624-4743.

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

People in the Church: The Prayer Chain

Peter O'Connell's scream pierced the night. The young boy had "brittle bone disease," and another bone had just snapped. His grandmother, Marilyn Hamilton, felt a knife of pain shoot through her. "I felt so helpless," she said. "I needed to do something." A few days later she got the Presbyterian Women to organize a prayer chain similar to the ones she had known in other churches. That was over fifteen years ago.

The CPC Prayer Chain, composed of twenty women, continues today. Carolyn Knight became the leader in the early years and faithfully performed that responsibility until recently, when it passed to Phyllis DeLeo.

How does it work? Often a person may call one of the pastors (624-9693) or Phyllis DeLeo (626-4067) with a request. Sometimes a person makes a request for someone else. In all cases the information is confidential and Phyllis checks with the person to see what information she can share with the Prayer Chain and to make sure they want prayers. The group relies on a telephone tree. Phyllis contacts three people, who each contact three others, until all twenty are notified. Members are given a name and sometimes additional information.

I was especially curious to know what people in the Prayer Chain prayed for. In our society we know that some people pray for money, some pray for miracles. Often they seem to be saying that God ought to do what we want, instead of us following God's will. In the case of my own illness (myasthenia gravis) that began two years ago I found myself unsure what to pray. If the illness was God's will, or even more, if it was somehow a "gift" from God, to me or someone else, wouldn't I be wrong to pray that the illness be taken away, that a cure would occur? On the other hand, it seemed too much, at least in the beginning, to offer prayers of gratitude for these times of trauma and crisis. Is there some wisdom we might gain from the Prayer Chain?

I discovered that what and how Prayer Chain members pray is left to their own discretion. "I pray that God bless the person. I pray that God's will be done," said Leonaine Dixon. "If it's an upcoming surgery," said Marjorie Stoddard, "I often pray that the person be at peace. And I pray that the physicians have a good night's sleep." Phyllis DeLeo prays that the person feels surrounded by God's loving, healing presence. Her prayers are not just for physical healing, but emotional and spiritual healing as well. Marilyn

Hamilton said, "I pray that people know they are not alone, that they know they are loved, that they are in the good hands of a loving God." What if it involves a terminal illness? Pat Beswick said, "I pray 'God, don't let this person suffer.' I pray that there is somebody to be with them." And if there are times when it seems appropriate Pat will pray "that you and your family know that this is a gift." In the midst of the traumas and the tragedies, their vision of a loving God comes through so powerfully in these prayers.

For the people I interviewed, these prayers were not tasks or obligations. Their prayer lives strengthened their own connection to God. At a time when Marilyn Hamilton felt helpless to stop Peter's illness and pain, she could turn to God in prayer and know that she and God together could be of help. "It brings me closer to God's reality and the importance of faith in our lives," remarked Leonaine Dixon. Marj Stoddard spoke of having "a feeling that I am supported." Phyllis DeLeo told me that prayer provides a vital connection between us, and between us and God. "We are spiritual beings," she declared. "To deny that, to deny prayer, is to lose sight of who we really are."

Is the Prayer Chain well used by our congregation? There are dry spells and there are floods. I got the sense that we averaged 3-4 requests per week. That had Marjorie Stoddard wondering, "How many people avail themselves of the Prayer Chain?" Do most of us know it exists? Are we embarrassed to request prayers for ourselves? Does it ever occur to us that our request might help others connect to God? Most of the requests are health-related and come at a time of crisis. Imagine how many more of us might seek prayers for spiritual help. Remember the man who told Jesus, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief."

In my own case, I never quite resolved the question of what I should pray for, and yet by the time I was one year into the illness I seemed to be emotionally and spiritually at the place desired by the Prayer Chain people. Does that sound like prayer is working?

~Dick Johnson



COMMUNICATOR



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

Sermons on Website

Audio files of past sermons at Claremont Presbyterian Church can be found on the church website. Go to CPC's website at www.claremontpres.org and click on the "Sermons" tab.

Save the Date!

May 9	Youth Sunday
May 29	Great Escape Weekend begins
July 5 - 9	Vacation Bible School

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 Phyllis DeLeo with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.