



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2008



## CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, December 7 10:00 a.m.

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Luke 1:68 - 79

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

“The Song of Zechariah: The Dawn from on high will break upon us”

Sunday, December 14 10:00 a.m.

*Third Sunday of Advent*

“What Can We Bring?”

The Birth of Jesus in Songs and Stories”

Christmas Pageant presented in Worship

Sunday, December 21 10:00 a.m.

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Luke 2:14

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

“The Song of Angels: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth”



**Wednesday, December 24**

*Christmas Eve*

**5:00 p.m. Intergenerational Worship Service**

**11:00 p.m. Candlelight Lesson and Carols**

Sunday, December 28 10:00 a.m.

*First Sunday after Christmas*

Carol singing with

the Jaeger Family Brass Ensemble

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

## Was St. Nick Presbyterian?

The red suited, jolly Santa Claus who presides over American Christmases bears little resemblance to the St. Nicholas of Christian tradition. That tradition holds that St. Nicholas was born in southern Turkey in the third century A.D. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died when he was young, leaving him in possession of a small fortune. Because of his faith, Nicholas chose to use his inheritance to assist the sick, the needy and the suffering. His generosity made him much beloved in his community. When the local bishop died, Nicholas was chosen as bishop by popular acclamation, even though he was a layperson, not a priest—a very rare occurrence even in those days.

Though he was born twelve hundred years before John Calvin, I think you could make the argument that St. Nicholas was a proto-Presbyterian. After all—Presbyterians have a long history of outreach to those in need. And one of our distinctives is the way we ordain to God’s service lay men and women chosen by the congregation to lead God’s people.

As we celebrate Christ’s birth and look toward the new year, may we be blessed with a visit from the real St. Nicholas whose legacy is generosity, compassion and a willingness to serve when called.

## Let the Gift You Receive Be the Gift You Give

Every year Claremont Presbyterian Church offers the congregation and the community an “Alternative Christmas Market” where we bring together 20 of our local, national, and international Mission Partners and invite people to purchase unique gifts in the name of their friends and loved ones. **The Alternative Christmas Market is on December 7, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

When was the last time you got the “gift” of a mosquito net for a family that will help prevent malaria, or immunizations against regional diseases? Or money that will provide education and housing for a local woman and her children who have just escaped a violent situation at home?

Such is the power of a simple donation to one of our Mission Partners at this market. It is where moms and dads can engage their children in the hope that the Alternative Christmas Market can bring, where people can empower an entire community whom they may never meet. Lives are transformed and hope in the future is renewed.

We urge you to consider a different kind of gift-giving this year, one that will keep giving well beyond this year. In that unique gift exchange, be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a wider circle of friends.

Join us. And dare to change a few lives...including your own.

## Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

Many of us spend the weeks before Christmas decorating our homes and places of worship, singing carols or attending various holiday performances. What is the significance of the arts in our faith and our worship? A three part series this month will explore that question. Classes will meet in the Chapel.

### December 7: **Ken Mitchell on The Significance of Music for the Church**

Mitchell is a retired UCC pastor who has also directed many choirs and bell choirs while serving congregations in Montana, California and Washington.

December 14: The day of our own Christmas pageant! Drop in to the Christmas Breakfast buffet in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:30, then at 9:00 come hear: **Judith and Donald Chatfield's reflections on The Significance of Drama in the Church.** Judy is a UCC pastor with a degree in Theater Arts. She has directed and choreographed for civic theater and has taught both choreography and dance. Don is a Presbyterian pastor and seminary professor. He has also been active in theater and has helped found two community drama companies.

December 21: **Eleanor Scott Meyers on The Significance of Visual Arts in the Church.** Eleanor is a retired seminary professor living at Pilgrim Place. A new gift and calling discovered in her retirement is landscape painting. You can see some of her work at [www.esmeyers.com](http://www.esmeyers.com).

The **Family Issues Roundtable** will take a break and resume after the New Year



## Sanctuary Choir Presents Special Holiday Music

This year the choir is presenting music selected from the wonderful English carol tradition. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) is considered an outstanding British 20<sup>th</sup> century composer and he derived a unique, influential style that drew on the vast resources of English folksong. Sunday, December 21 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the Sanctuary Choir will be performing Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* which uses four different carols from the British Isles. He composed this piece while he was involved in the work of editing the *English Hymnal*. We will also perform *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*, written by Vaughan Williams' friend and contemporary, Gustav Holst. *The Birthday Carol* is a charming, joyous piece telling of the angels' appearance to the shepherds, by English composer David Willcocks. Another traditional English favorite is *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* and we will be singing a new arrangement by Meredith Brammeier. The choir looks forward to celebrating the joy of the season with these lovely texts and tunes.

## Relationship Workshop to be Offered in February

Here is a workshop that will help couples

- Understand each other better
- Express themselves in ways that get cooperation
- Problem solve in ways that meet both people's needs
- Generalize their learning from structured dialogues to use throughout their lives.

*Mastering the Mysteries of Love* (MML) is a set of 10 skills that work together to transform relationships by changing how people listen, talk, problem solve, and work together.

This workshop will be offered on eight consecutive Sunday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. beginning February 1, 2009 and will be led by CPC Parish Associate Dave Lutz. In addition to his work at CPC, Dave is a senior staff therapist at the Clinebell Institute and is certified as a trainer for MML.

There will be no charge for the program. Child care will be provided at a cost of \$5.00 per family per session. For more information see Dave.

## A Caroling We Will Go!

Please join the PYGs and PYGlets for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21. We will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the westside CPC parking lot and end at Susan Townzen's house with cookies and cocoa (9:00 p.m.) All are welcome!



**Christmas Eve  
Worship  
Services  
will be at  
5:00 p.m.  
and  
11:00 p.m.  
this year**

## Sunday School Experience December 7

The second Children/Youth Worship experience will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, in the grassy area in front of the CPC Children's Center. All youth, from preschool to high school, are invited to this fun-filled and hands-on approach to the Jewish pilgrimage festival of Sukkot. Come with plans to build and decorate!

## Annual Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange

The Annual Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange at the Warners' house will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 13. Bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share, your own beverage and a wrapped ornament for the lively ornament exchange. All are invited. For more information call Kent & Teddie Warner.

## Don't Miss the Christmas Breakfast

The annual Daisy Najarian Christmas Breakfast will be Sunday December 14th at 8:30 a.m. before worship. Plan to attend and invite your family, friends and neighbors because this is a free, no reservations needed event. After breakfast, at 10:00 a.m., enjoy worship and the much anticipated, always delightful Children's Pageant. Mark your calendars now and we hope to see you there!

*Evangelism and Nurture Commission*

## Christmas Pageant to Be Presented in Worship

What can we give the baby Jesus? With angels, shepherds, Wise Men and wooly beasts, the CPC children will retell the Christmas story through Lessons and Carols. And to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the children will conclude the pageant by giving the Christ-child a very special gift.

Join in song with the Cherub & Lyric Choirs, Light Crew, the \*Church School Children, the Campanile and Praise Ringers and the Sanctuary Choir as they bring you the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.

**\*All children are welcome to participate in the pageant!** Children who are not in choir will have roles as sheep or angels. If you have a child, grandchild or young friend who would like to be part of the pageant, please contact Melissa Landis at [vocalart@verizon.net](mailto:vocalart@verizon.net). She will get back to you with details!

## Make Christmas Special for Families in Need

For several years the Deacons have sponsored the Adopt-A-Family program and each year the CPC congregation has responded with generous support. This year, following the tradition, there will be five Claremont families who have been identified and adopted by the Deacons. The congregation has the opportunity to share their Christmas spirit with these families by choosing a gift tag or tags from the Christmas tree which will be on the patio after church on November 30 and December 7. Each tag will have the gender, age, size and gift request for a member of one of the families. Purchase the gift or gift card requested, wrap it, attach the gift tag to the gift and bring it to the Narthex on Sunday, December 7 or December 14 or to the church office any day up to December 16. The gifts will be delivered by Deacons the following week. If you are unable to shop or if you prefer, monetary donations will also be accepted.



## Join in Las Posadas

Come join with members of Emmanuel in this Mexican tradition that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem. We'll meet at the church **Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m.** to learn a bit more about Las Posadas and to get familiar with the simple song that accompanies this mini-"pilgrimage." Then we'll journey to several houses ("inns") close to the church before returning for a Potluck FIESTA in the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable shoes and a warm coat, as there will be some walking involved. No passport required for this cross-cultural adventure, and pilgrims of all ages are welcome. Bring your family's favorite holiday dish to share.

## Sunday School Break

Please note that children and youth will rehearse for the pageant during the Sunday School hour on December 14. Sunday School classes will not meet on the following Sundays: December 21 & 28, January 4. Children and youth Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, January 11, 2009.

# On Cake: A Reflection of the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth in the Church, the Community, and the Global Village; or Get Your Own

It's Sunday morning. You have gathered in Fellowship Hall for what promises to be an engaging adult education class. Most of the people have arrived, greeted one another warmly, and taken their seats, awaiting the arrival of the teacher.



At about five past the hour, she arrives. She opens the wooden framed door with one hand and in the other hand balances a large chocolate cake. She makes her way to the front of the chairs, toward the expectantly placed lectern, smiling and nodding as she goes, but when she reaches the front she has no notes to place on the lectern and no handouts to distribute. She has only the cake, which she somewhat ceremoniously places atop the lectern before smiling broadly at the class and then sitting down.

You look at the cake for a moment. You lean forward in your chair to look at the teacher who, like you, is looking at the cake. Several seconds of strained silence settle over the room before someone nervously asks, “What are we supposed to do with that?”

The teacher shrugs her shoulders, offering no instructions or explanations, only sitting there with a bemused look on her face. Good luck figuring out what to do. The senior highs figured it out.

We listened to the senior high students at the start of the year, and one of the things I personally heard in their conversations about their hopes and concerns was a sensitivity to the divisions that mark people and groups every day. Race, wealth, ability, language: all of these things mark off—in the high school and the community—where one group ends and another begins, and the boundaries tend to be well-protected.

It seemed to me to be a question of politics: where do these factors that differentiate between peoples originate? Who is responsible for them? What can I do about them? And so I enlisted one of our resident political scientists, David Menefee-Libey, to help me explore these questions with the senior highs. The chocolate cake experiment was his idea.

They stared at it just like you would. Then one of them got tired of looking at it. He went to the PYG room cabinet, grabbed a plastic knife, looked cautiously at me, and then—smiling all the while—cut himself a small sliver of cake. A fellow PYG asked him to cut her a piece. He answered triumphantly: “Get your own.”

It could have played out in a thousand different ways, and each one would have said something definite about the “rules” we bring to such a scenario, how we differentiate where the private “I” ends and the public “we” begins and what our rights and responsibilities are vis-à-vis the larger public.

For young people, that differentiation is largely done for them. At home, in school, during church, throughout band practice, karate lessons, or on the soccer team, adults make the rules (about cake and everything else). Consider this sampling of rules affecting young people:

- Baptized members of a PC (USA) congregation (read: not-yet-confirmed members, those baptized as infants who have not yet made a public profession of faith) cannot vote in a congregational meeting.
- In the city of Claremont, an unaccompanied minor may not “loiter, idle, wander, stroll, or aimlessly drive or ride about in or upon any public street, avenue, highway, road, curb area, alley, park, playground, or other public ground, public place or public building, place of amusement or eating place, vacant lot or unsupervised place when the student’s school site is in session.”
- In the state of California, “It shall be an infraction for any person to perform or offer to perform body piercing upon a person under the age of 18 years, unless the body piercing is performed in the presence of, or as directed by a notarized writing by, the person’s parent or guardian.”

We’re wondering together about “the rules” and who makes them. We’re wondering about the rights and responsibilities of young people in the church and the community, indeed in the world. How, after all, does the freedom accorded us in the gospel of Jesus Christ entitle and obligate us to live in the world?

It’s no small question, but you’d be surprised at how directly a small chocolate cake poses it. As always, we covet your prayers and encouragement for our young people on their journey, and we welcome you to walk with us. Come to a PYG meeting some Sunday night. We’d love to have you. We’ll even save you some cake. Well, some of us will.

*Pastor Rocky Supinger*



## PDA Volunteer Village Reopens

The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared on the PC(USA) website. CPC Member John Hill has been a Village Manager at the PDA Village in Pearlinton on three different occasions, first from October 2006 - January 2007, then from May 2007 - August 2007 and most recently from March 2008 - May 2008.

“A volunteer village operated by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in Pearlinton, MS, is once again hosting work teams after a blow from Hurricane Gustav in September forced the camp to shut down.

The news comes as workers have started rebuilding a PDA volunteer village in Houma, LA, that was also battered by the storm.

The hurricane-whipped villages were among five sites established by PDA to house volunteer work teams helping to rebuild the U.S. Gulf Coast following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

On Oct. 19 the refurbished Pearlinton village took in its first volunteer work teams since Gustav slammed the Gulf Coast on Sept. 1.

“With the exception of the Houma camp, all villages are up and running,” said Leslie Fedo, PDA’s volunteer village coordinator, who oversees the five camps — three in Louisiana and two in Mississippi.

Gustav destroyed six temporary housing units known as “pods” at the village in Pearlinton, located about 25 miles west of Biloxi, MS. The small community near the Gulf of Mexico was

all but destroyed by Katrina on Aug. 29, 2005.

Some devastated pods at the site, which also took on a lot of floodwater, were replaced with new ones by staff and volunteers. Others were replaced with units left over from a volunteer village that PDA closed down about a year ago in Gautier, MS.

About 75 people, primarily Presbyterians from Philadelphia Presbytery, made up the first wave of volunteers when the Pearlinton village reopened last month, according to the Rev. Frank Vardeman, PDA’s Gulf Coast hurricane response manager. The group from Philadelphia finished making repairs to a home in Pearlinton, then held a house blessing to mark the occasion.”



## Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

If updating your estate plan is on your year-end “to do” list, be sure to remember CPC in your planning!

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program here at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to “give back” to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

Questions? Pick up a copy of our bequest brochure in the Church Office or at the Information Kiosk on the patio after church on Sunday morning. You’ll be glad you did – and CPC will be grateful to you.

*The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee*



Claremont Presbyterian Church Women’s Retreat  
Saturday, January 17, 2009  
9:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.  
at Community Presbyterian Church, San Marino  
Featured Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nordquist

Elizabeth Nordquist is a PC(USA) Minister of Word and Sacrament. She has served churches in Pacific Presbytery and was on the Faculty of SFTS/Southern California. She is a spiritual director and frequent speaker in churches and church events. She has been married to John Nordquist for forty-two years, and has two adult children and four grandchildren.

Look for a flyer and registration form in your bulletin later this month!

## Session Digest

At its **September** meeting the Session:

- Heard from Elder Springer that we are called to stewardship of the earth.
- Formed a Budget Study Group to ensure responsible planning for 2009.
- Began prayerful consideration of documents Rev. Sapio presented regarding issues of hosting and performing weddings at our church.
- Heard of the conclusion of the Stimulus Package gifts program and the amounts that were raised in support of the Community Meals and the Beta Center.
- Appreciated the good work of the Nominating Committee in seeking candidates for officers in the next few years.

At its **October** meeting the Session:

- Received Elder Auld's meditation exhorting persistence as a powerful trait for people of faith.
- Approved Rev. Sapio's suggestion to keep the sanctuary open for several hours on Election Day for prayer and meditation.
- Approved a preliminary budget to share with the congregation as they consider their pledges for 2009.
- Adopted new language for the church's wedding pamphlet and web page, intended to better reflect our ministries in this area.

*Clerk of Session,  
Steve Sittig*

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/08	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$434,158	\$458,333
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	54,091	67,333
Expenses	( 522,365 )	( 544,334 )
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 34,116 )</b>	<b>( 18,668 )</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/08	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$507,592	\$536,252
Expenses	( 467,363 )	( 523,362 )
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>40,229</b>	<b>12,890</b>

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

## Year End Giving: A Special Opportunity

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to keep our 2008 CPC pledges current and to pledge generously to CPC for 2009. If you are in this group, thank you for your support!

For some, however, 2008 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC, so that we may close our 2008 books on a positive note.

You might think of this as a Christmas present to our Church, for all that it means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: gifts made by December 31 may help reduce your 2008 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

*The CPC Special Gifts and  
Endowment Committee*

## Site Being Sought

The annual confirmation retreat will take place over a weekend in late February. This event, which brings confirmands and mentors together for three days of reflection on their faith, is best done in a comfortable and non-threatening house setting. So, if you know of any remote houses or cabins that might be available for such an event, please contact Rocky to share it. Thanks!

## Thank You Volunteers

A special group of CPC volunteers help bring us meaningful worship services throughout the year.

Sam Atwood – organizes the acolytes

Brad Blaine – assists with contemplative services  
Jean Cochran – changes the vestments for each season

Kathy Croughan & Delight Slotemaker de Bruine – liturgical dance

Jane Glenn & Carlynn Christian – organize Communion servers

Pam House & Joan Dick – sanctuary floral arrangements

Roger House – organ maintenance

Mary Hughes, Kathy Croughan, Pieter Sigtenhorst – liturgical art

Dawn Swarthout & Matt Mc Donald – refreshing the pew racks

Also serving on the Worship & Music Commission are Jean Underwood, Jenelle Westerback Anderson, Geri DeMasi, Melissa McIntosh Landis and Karen Sapio, under the capable leadership of John Watts.



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](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) 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

# Free Performina Arts Serices 2008/2009

Coming in 2009

Saturday

February 7

7:00 p.m.

**Jack Sanders**

**Guitar and Luthier**



Jack Sanders is equally at home playing music of all periods. He is a soloist, chamber musician, pedagogue and luthier. He will perform music from five centuries on vihuela, including baroque, Romantic (19th c.) and modern classical guitar. Music to be performed will be by Luys Narvaez, Gaspar Sanz, Fernando Sor, Johann Kaspar Mertz and Miroslav Tadic.

Saturday

March 14

7:00 p.m.

**Azusa Pacific University**

**Gospel Choir**

Led by Letitia Ugwucke



APU's Gospel Choir combines unique voices with a fresh sound to establish a Gospel music experience that is both artistic and cultural. Combining the gifts and talents of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, administration and community members makes this a very diverse choir.

Saturday

May 9

7:00 p.m.

**Claremont High School**

**Jazz Band**

Directed by Rick Melanson



The CHS Jazz Band is composed of 38 youth who play woodwind, brass, drum, piano, vibraphone, guitar, bass and, on occasion, a vocalist. The CHS Jazz Band plays anything from big band to funk, including tunes sung and played by Frank Sinatra, the Count Basie Orchestra and Tower of Power.

## Thank You

The Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee would like to extend a special thank you to all who have supported this outreach program by volunteering their time to bake cookies, help with a reception, usher, prepare mailers and fold programs. A special thank you to CPC staff Members: Jo Colclough, Joan Lebeck and David Gibson.

*Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee*

Lori Lillich - *Moderator/Performance Coordinator*  
Lilly Walters-Schermerhorn - *Publicity*  
Stuart Lillich - *House Manager/Sound*  
Jenelle Westerbeck Anderson  
Carlynn Christian

Katy Lillich  
Cloyce Morrow  
Carol Stubblebine  
Barbara Styles

# COMMUNICATOR



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

## Christmas Joy Offering

Through the Board of Pensions' Financial Assistance Programs, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times. In addition, the Presbyterian Church has long promoted education through establishing and supporting racial ethnic schools and colleges. Christmas Joy Offering funds provide scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and they enable students to discover and pursue their professional goals. This year CPC will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on December 21. Envelopes can be found in this issue of the Communicator, with your pledge envelopes or in the pews.

## Did You Know?

CPC Youth Jessica Trindle and Jenny Eazell will be performing in the Upland Choral Department's annual Elizabethan Dinner Theater December 11, 12, 13 & 14th. Take the whole family and step back in time for an experience of music, merriment and marvelous food. Call the Royal Information line for ticket prices (909) 949-7880 ext. 560, or visit the Royal Website at [www.freewebs.com/uhschoral/](http://www.freewebs.com/uhschoral/)

## 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.