



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2009

CPC December Worship Plans

Christmas Yet to Come

An Advent Sermon Series on the Book of Revelation

Sunday, December 6 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Revelation 21

“New Heaven, New Earth”

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 13 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Children & Youth Music Program

Christmas Pageant

Calling All Angels

Sunday, December 20 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Revelation 22

“Come Lord Jesus”

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Thursday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE



5:00 p.m. Family Service

Jaeger Brass Ensemble on the patio following the service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

Carol singing with the

Jaeger Brass Ensemble

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

From the Pastor

I recently took Clara and Clayton to see the latest (3D!) film adaptation of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. It strikes me as odd that this story is marketed for children when its themes and imagery are mature and even frightening. From the moment Scrooge’s doorknocker transforms into the ghostly face of Jacob Marley, this story pulls us into a world of fantastic visions and wild encounters.

The ghost of Christmas Past confronts Scrooge with the raw grief of his childhood and the painful consequences of his past choices. The ghost of Christmas Present exposes how completely Scrooge is disconnected from both the love and the suffering that surrounds him. Most terrifying of all is the ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. This ghost, wearing the black shroud of death, reveals the dire future that must inevitably emerge from Scrooge’s current manner of life. Through his encounter with these three Spirits, Scrooge gains a sweeping vision of his life: past, present and future. This sweeping vision results in radical transformation. When he awakes, he is not the man he was; he is a man healed and forgiven with a brand new life. For the new Scrooge, Christmas Yet to Come is no longer a horror but joy still waiting to be discovered.

Dickens’ story is really more an Advent tale than a Christmas one. In Advent we remember the past, consider the present and contemplate the future. The traditional Advent scriptures point us backward to the prophets and the promised coming of Christ, and point us to the future when God’s ultimate purposes with Creation will finally be fulfilled. Sometimes the images in this sweeping vision are wild and frightening. But the purpose – as in Dickens’ story – is not terror but radical transformation. Advent is meant to turn us toward the future not with fear, but with the glad hope of a joyful fulfillment yet to come.

And so – God bless us, every one.

Poinsettias and Greens

If you would like to help provide poinsettias and greens to decorate our Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas, please use the flower form included with this *Communicator*. Thank you.



Sunday Morning at Nine - Adult Education

Biblical Exploration

Room 1

“Introduction to the Study of the Gospels and Paul”

Rev. David Cortés-Fuentes, Ph.D. will conclude his nine week series which began in October.

December 6: The Letter to the Romans

Christmas Breakfast December 13

Invite your friends and family to join you on Sunday, December 13 beginning at 8:30 a.m. for a Christmas Breakfast Social in Fellowship Hall. No reservations are required. This holiday breakfast fellowship was started by the late Daisy Najarian, and has become one of CPC's traditions. This year the event will also be a fundraiser for the high school youth Spring Break Work Trip. Hope to see you there!

Pageant Presented in Worship on December 13

What do you do when you get to announce the greatest gift ever given?

This year the children's pageant is *Calling All Angels!* a Chancel Drama. The story line embraces the Annunciation, the season of Advent, and the Christmas event. As the play begins, the Angel Gabriel, as God's messenger, is given the awesome assignment to think of a way to announce to the whole world that the Holy Child has been born. Join the children's and youth music programs on December 13 as we celebrate the greatest gift ever given.

Annual Christmas Party/ Ornament Exchange

The Annual Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange at the Warners' house will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12. Bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share, your own beverage and a wrapped, fun, inexpensive ornament for the lively ornament exchange. All are invited. For more information call Kent & Teddie Warner.

Senior Social Friday, December 18

The second Senior Social of 2009 will be held Friday evening December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be carol singing and cookie eating. We invite those attending to bring half a dozen of their favorite Christmas cookies. All are welcome - you decide if you want to be a senior for the evening!

Alternative Christmas Gift Market - December 6

The Alternative Christmas Market is Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Every year CPC offers an “Alternative Christmas Market” where we bring together over 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.

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.

Tamales from Uncommon Good

¡Señores & señoras! Try some delicious homemade tamales from the kitchen of Liliana's, an East LA and Southern California tradition. A representative from Uncommon Good will take orders for these mouth-watering tamales on Sunday, December 6 after worship or by email at ccarrillo@uncommongood.org.

You can order chicken, cheese or sweet tamales at \$20.00 per dozen. Orders must be prepaid and tamales will be delivered after church on Sunday, December 13. Proceeds go to Uncommon Good's Clinic to College Mentoring Program.



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

High School Youth at CPC

Climbing, dodging, serving, blushing: this is a sampling of how CPC's youth spent November. George Trindle and Linda Silva led them on an indoor rock climbing adventure, and Pastor Rocky joined with pastors and volunteers from Claremont's UMC and UCC churches to lead them in an overnight retreat focused on dating and relationships. Then there was a dodgeball tournament in Larkin Park organized as a fundraiser for Inland Valley Hope Partners. CPC's team of 6 humbly dominated, going undefeated and taking home lovely gold bobble-head trophies. Finally, our youth participated in the free community meal that has become a central part of our church's outreach to the hungry and needy of our community. November was full!

December holds a couple of exciting things in store: caroling on the 13th and the youth Christmas party on the 20th at Susan Townzen's house. Youth should watch their mail, email and phones for more information on these events.

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 20.

Sacha Lord Begins as CPCC's Interim Director

Sacha Lord took over the Interim Director responsibilities of the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center in mid-October and has already made a positive impact on the center's staff, children and families. Sacha, a long time member of CPC, comes to the Children's Center with over 20 years experience and a master's degree in early childhood education. She serves as an adjunct faculty member at Chaffey Community College.

The Children's Center Commission and the Personnel Committee are happy to welcome Sacha to CPCC, and we are confident that she will receive a warm CPC welcome!

Science for Ministry Institute

For five days in early November, Scott Randles and Pastor Rocky sat in a Princeton Seminary classroom and heard lectures about evolutionary biology, the doctrines of the Image of God, and paleo-anthropology. And quantum mechanics. And chaos theory.

The "core course" was the beginning of the seminary's Science for Ministry Institute, a three year program funded by the John Templeton foundation to foster the religion and science dialogue in churches. Princeton's J. Wentzel van Huyssteen, the James I. McCord Professor of Theology and Science is behind the program, which brings together pairs of participants from churches - one pastor/theologian and one scientist - to study and discuss cutting edge issues related to faith and science. Those pairs then return to their churches with an action plan.

Watch this space incoming months for more details about how Scott and Rocky's participation in this Institute will take shape at CPC.

Orchestra and Organ Concert in February

The Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee is pleased to announce that on February 6, 2010, the Pasadena Community Orchestra under the leadership of Alan Reinecke, Musical Director, will be appearing at Claremont Presbyterian Church with Tabitha Henken, Organist, for an evening of Organ and Orchestral Music. The program will range from the Baroque to Neo Classical. In October 2009, Ms. Henken performed at First Congregational Church on the World's largest Church Pipe Organ. Mr. Reinecke is in his second season as Musical Director and Conductor of the Pasadena Community Orchestra. This is a must see concert to hear our glorious pipe organ in an orchestral setting. The Performing Arts Committee is soliciting donations which can be listed in the program to help offset this community wide event. Bring your music lover friends and neighbors. There will be a free will offering during an interlude of the concert. Don't miss the splendor of the evening's music making."



PYGlets

Junior High School Youth Group calendar of upcoming events:

December 6

(Sunday): PYGlets
7:00 p.m. - CPC
Room 7

December 13

(Sunday): Caroling -
5:00 p.m.

December 20

(Sunday): Christmas
Party, Townzen home

December 27

(Sunday): no PYGlets

January 3

(Sunday): no PYGlets



New Books for CPC Library

You may want to check these out! Choices were based on the Library Committee's Wish List as published earlier and on requests of Reverend Rocky Supinger and Scott Randles to support future discussions of religion and science.

In the Bleak Midwinter (A Rev. Clare Fergusson and Russ Van Alstyne Mystery) by Julia Spencer-Fleming

The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins

50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How you and Your Church Can Make a Difference by Rebecca Barnes-Davies

My Tummy Talked in Church Today by Christy Colby Heno

A Science and Religion Primer by Heidi Campbell

Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction by Gary B. Ferngren

Galileo, Darwin, and Hawking: The Interplay of Science Introduction by Phil Dowe

Jesus Made in America: A Cultural History from the Puritans to the Passion of the Christ by Stephen J. Nichols

Entertaining the Triune Mystery: God, Science and the Space Between by Jeffrey C. Pugh

The Big Questions in Science and Religion by Keith Ward

Faith in Words: A Celebration of Presbyterian Writers by Ann Weems

Nature, Human Nature, and God by Ian G. Barbour

Ending Hunger Now by George McGovern

Caring for Mother: A Daughter's Long Goodbye by Virginia Stern Owens

The Christian World: A Global History by Martin E. Marty (Donation)

The Origin of the Species by Charles Darwin (Donation)



Remembering Donald McIntyre

Ann McIntyre was Clerk of Session at CPC in the 1980s. Her husband, Donald was Emeritus Professor of Geology at Pomona College. They and their son, Ewen moved to Perth, Scotland in 1989.

Nancy Arce shares the following from Ann (paraphrased from emails.) Donald is now at peace after a long struggle with Parkinson's. He led a wonderful and fulfilling life.

Ewen and I appreciate so very much the many emails, letters and cards with are still arriving. The prayers and expressions of love and friendship are very meaningful for us. Contributions in memory of Donald may be made to The Ewen McIntyre Upper Springland Fund, c/o Ann McIntyre, 17 Beaumont House, 15 N. St. Johns' Place, Perth PH15SZ, Scotland, UK or to the Pomona College Department of Geology, Eric Grosfils, Pomona College.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$419,442	\$454,167
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	59,610	57,083
Expenses	(521,579)	(540,758)
VARIANCE	(42,527)	(29,508)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$427,873	519,893
Expenses	(457,760)	(535,955)
VARIANCE	(29,887)	(16,062)

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

People in the Church: Harry Brunger

Years ago, young Sam Menefee-Libey used to tell his parents, “the main reason I go to church is to have the chance to chat with Harry Brunger on the patio after church.” When I heard this story, I thought to myself, “Sam may not know everything yet, but he certainly knows a saint when he sees one.”

You probably know one thing true of all saints, including Harry: they abhor being called saints. So after the next sentence I will avoid it.

Have you ever tried to interview a saint? Those of you who know Harry must, I hope, feel some compassion for me, trying to extract the real life story from this man. Simply put, it can't be done. Harry is maddeningly modest. What could I do? My great challenge turned out to my surprise to be one of the greatest pleasures of my life. Using a list provided to me by Marilyn, Harry's wife, I asked some of Harry's close friends to tell me about him. They would begin slowly, not sure of what to say to me. But as they began to recall their magical stories of Harry, a feeling of joy gradually filled their faces, their eyes lit up, eclipsing my presence as they testified at length to their great fortune of knowing, and having been befriended by this man. Harry, they told me, is “a gentle, deep soul” who “brings out the best in people.” He is both “laid back and elegant.” Returning from one encounter, I could not help but recall the words of an old tune made famous by Judy Garland:

I am here to state
I'm here to relate
To explain
and make it plain that:
I'm just wild about Harry

Harry Brunger grew up on a family farm west of Lansing, Michigan. When former Pastor Jim Angell used to talk about what young people needed most – roots and wings – he could have used Harry as a model. In that farming community Harry and his four siblings learned about trust and decency, caring and faith. Their roots went deep. Education became their wings: all five children graduated from college, following in the footsteps of their parents, also college graduates. By the time he arrived at Michigan State University, Harry had discovered a man who would greatly influence his life: John R. Mott, one of the greatest builders of the YMCA and the World Student Christian Federation, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946, and often called “the founder of modern

ecumenism.” Following the urging of John Price, the director of the student YMCA at Michigan State, Harry enrolled at Yale Divinity School after college graduation. His wings were beginning to open, and few could predict how far they would spread.

The YMCA kept an eye on Harry. They saw a young man who was both bright and remarkably solid in judgment. Harry loved people and showed a deep interest in what they were doing. And he had that vision, John Mott's vision: that the world could be a better place, that barriers of fear and prejudice could come down, that religions around the world could find common ground on which to build for a better future.

Harry's adult life coincided with the era when the great European powers, exhausted by World War II, found their colonial empires collapsing. A world of newly independent states, what Mao called “the Third World,” began to emerge. The YMCA needed to find ways to work with new friends and new leaders in a swiftly changing world. Soon after Harry received his ordination, the YMCA International approached him. Could Harry and his wife, Grace, go to China? They said yes. That was the beginning of 28 years of service, in China and the Middle East, often in situations of harrowing civil unrest. The situation called for people who had, in Rizek Abushaar's words, “deep insight into political, social and economic situations.” He was describing Harry, of course.

It was in China that the YMCA learned what a jewel they had in Harry Brunger. As he helped people in resettlement and social/economic development, he also laid the foundation for a reinvigorated, effective YMCA. “We would look for the young people with a vision that life could be better, and bring them in,” Harry told me. He sought out people who were “lively, honest and true, and who had a sense of what young people need.” Gradually these people would be nurtured to be leaders in their communities and nations.

It sounds easy, doesn't it? That's the way Harry makes it sound. But any attempt at change, whether of an institution or a nation, threatens those who hold power. They resist. Here again is where Harry excelled. He listened to people and gained their trust. He could bring mortal enemies to the same table and help them find goals and hopes they held in common. Harry wisely refused to fall into the trap of so many who seek change: they

(See **Harry** on Page 6)



Going Green(er) with Pledge Envelopes

CPC has for many years purchased pledge envelopes that only come in weekly sets. The vast majority of CPC members pay their pledge on a monthly basis. That means a whole lot of envelopes go to waste.

This year we are trying something different. Pledge envelopes have been printed in-house. If you indicated you will pay your pledge on a monthly basis, you will be given a set of 12 monthly envelopes plus envelopes for the special annual offerings like One Great Hour of Sharing, etc. Envelopes will always be available in the pews if you feel moved to give more frequently. If you indicated you will pay annually, envelopes have not been printed for you. Call Jo Colclough in the church office if you do not receive envelopes and would like to have some.

Because we are starting a new system, households have been renumbered and your pledge number may change for 2010. We hope this does not cause any inconvenience.

As always, thank you for your generous support of Claremont Presbyterian Church!

Year End Giving: A Special Opportunity

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to “go the extra mile,” as we strive to fulfill our 2009 CPC pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2010. If you are in this group, thank you for your support!

For some, however, 2009 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 2009 books on a positive note.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or may be designated to support a particular aspect of our Church’s programs and outreach that is especially meaningful to you. If you’d like to know more, please speak to Karen, Rocky, or any member of our Committee – we’d be happy to help.

You might think of this as a Christmas present from you to CPC, for all that it means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: gifts made by December 31 may help reduce your 2009 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

Harry (cont. from Page 5)

envision a utopian ideal, and will seek any means, including violence, to achieve it quickly. The result for them is usually war, many deaths, and a residue of twisted, bitter lives. Harry sought common ground. His vision, in Harry’s typically understated way – “something about love and justice” – was as strong as theirs, but he demanded that it be inclusive.

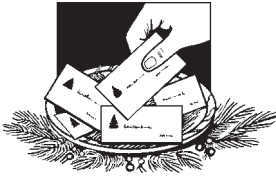
Undeterred by the turmoil in the Middle East, Harry affirmed, “You can work these things out. They (the people of the region) have to work it out.” Fixing his eyes on me, he added firmly, “and we have to stay out of it.”

You can’t do justice to Harry and his accomplishments in less than a book. There is so much more that can and should be said about him – titles, awards, achievements – but space limitations constrain me. He and Grace returned to New York City in the late 1970’s, joined the Riverside Church and established a close friendship with Reverend William Sloan Coffin. Harry became the Representative to the United Nations for the World Alliance of YMCAs. Eventually they came to Pilgrim Place. Grace died of pancreatic cancer in 1996. Harry and Marilyn married in 1998. They have made many positive contributions to the local area. Harry received awards and recognition all through his life, none of which have been mentioned here. Consider it my attempt to regain his good graces and avoid his chastisement for calling him a s____. But still, I must mention one very special award.

In 1991 Harry was inducted into the YMCA Hall of Fame. It was a great honor, but truly a tough one for a modest man to endure. Only 22 men had preceded him. Harry joined the ranks of world-changing figures such as his hero, John R. Mott, who was inducted only the previous year. Harry’s friend and fellow Pilgrim Place resident, Ron Evans, attended the induction ceremony and reported that “everyone had a great time — except Harry. He was so embarrassed!”

Harry celebrated his 90th birthday in November, and in typically modest fashion told Ron Evans that “around here, 90 is **nothing!**” I asked Harry what he wanted to do in the next 90 years, and got a surprisingly frank answer: “It’s a curse: I don’t have the energy to do the things I want to do.” But the desire remains. Yes, his spirit continues to burn as bright and lively as ever.

~Dick Johnson



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 jo.colclough@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

Session Digest

At its October meeting the Session:

- Listened to a reading on hope presented by Elder Auld, based on a passage in Philippians.
- Heard the report from Deacon Octavio about his training with the Clean Waters University training program.
- Were informed about ministries under consideration by our pastoral staff involving collaborations with several local Presbyterian churches, as well as Methodist and UCC youth groups.
- Rejoiced in hearing of new members joining in November, a full and strong slate of nominees for officers in 2010, and of good planning for the season of stewardship that is underway.

~Steve Sittig
Clerk of Session

Meditation

The opening line of the following poem by Christina Rossetti becomes the title of the Julia Spencer-Fleming mystery, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, to be reviewed by Elaine Walker at the Presbyterian Women's annual book review/luncheon on February 20, 2010. We offer the poem for meditation.

Christina Rossetti (1872)

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

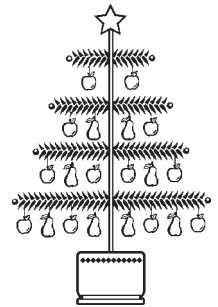
Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

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. Since the founding of the Society in 2008, 27 people have become members, by informing the Church that CPC is included in their estate plans. We'd like to welcome you, too!

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

~The CPC Special Gifts and
Endowment Committee



Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

COMMUNICATOR



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

Susan Townzen

We are sad to inform you that Susan Townzen has requested that CPC find someone to replace her as the Director of Christian Education, as of January 15, 2010. Her schedule has been too full to meet the demands of being a mom, a doctoral candidate, and a caring person who works two jobs.

Therefore, the Christian Education Commission is seeking a part-time staff member to coordinate our **Ministries for Children and Families**. Join our team of pastors, musicians and enthusiastic lay people! Approximately 15-20 hours/week, compensation negotiable based on level of experience. If you, or someone you know might be interested, or for more information and job description, contact Pastor Karen Sapio, karensapio@claremontpres.org

Elizabethan Dinner

CPC youth Jessica Trindle is participating in the Upland High School Choral Department's 23rd Annual Elizabethan Dinner held December 10, 11, 12 and 13 at the Pacific Christian Center in Upland. This is an exciting evening of holiday themed music and theatre combined with a multi-course meal. More information can be found online at www.freewebs.com/uhschoral. Tickets can be ordered by calling (909) 949-7880.

Contribution Note

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2009, all donations for 2009 must be either: placed in the offering plate by December 27, 2009, brought to the office by noon Thursday, December 31 or postmarked by December 31, 2009. Checks that are placed in the offering plate on January 3, 2010 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2009 even if the check is predated to 2009 or was actually written in 2009.

Saturday Soccer

E m m a n u e l Presbyterian Church once again invites anyone interested to join them for Saturday afternoon soccer at 3:30 p.m. at Mt. View Elementary School.