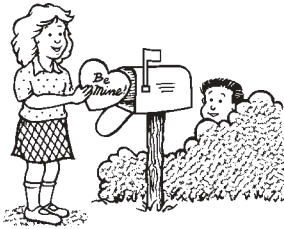




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2009



FEBRUARY

CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, February 1 10:00 a.m.

Interfaith Interchange with Temple Beth Israel

Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz preaching at CPC

Friday, February 6 7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Interchange with Temple Beth Israel

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching at TBI

Sunday, February 8 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Service of Holy Communion

Bernard Kabibu and Dr. Leon Mubikayi from the Democratic Republic of the Congo preaching

Sunday, February 15 10:00 a.m.

Jazz Sunday

Worship led by Chet Jaeger and the Night Blooming Jazzmen
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 22 10:00 a.m.

Transfiguration of the Lord

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Wednesday, February 25 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Worship

Getting Organized

In a phone conversation with my brother this week, our talk turned toward the drug-related violence in Mexico. Apparently, there are similar things going on where he lives in the U.S. Virgin Islands, though those stories don't make the news here on the mainland in quite the same way.

My brother wondered aloud, "If there can be Organized Crime, why can't there be Organized Good?"

"Hmm," I responded. "I've always thought that was at least part of what the church is supposed to be."

"Maybe," he replied. (My brother is pretty skeptical about all things church-y.)

It is an interesting image, though, isn't it? Can we imagine ourselves as members of a large, international Organized Good syndicate? Think of the headlines:

"Organized Good Launches Massive Assault on Poverty!"

"Homelessness, Disease and Hunger
Latest Victims of Organized Good"

"Outbreak of Understanding and Forgiveness
Attributed to Growth of Organized Good!"

Of course God's people are more than JUST a force for organized good but I hope we never see ourselves as less than that. Even more, I hope the world never sees us as less than that. Let's work on making Organized Good a powerful, exciting, mysterious, active movement people want to be part of.

Jazz Sunday

You won't want to miss worship on Sunday, February 15 when Chet Jaeger and the Night Blooming Jazzmen lead us in worship. Jazz Sunday is a long standing tradition at CPC.

The Night Blooming Jazzmen are an internationally known Dixieland jazz band which has been in existence since 1975. We are fortunate to have their leader, Chet Jaeger, as a member of CPC and thank him and his band for all the years they have graced us with their presence in worship.

This is always a lively and spirit filled service. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us and come ready to clap your hands!

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

February 8 - A Visit from the Congo

Fellowship Hall

Bernard Kabibu and Leon Mubikayi from the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK) in the Congo will share about the ongoing work of the institute's hospital, nursing school, and community health center. This is a unique opportunity to hear from representatives of an established Presbyterian mission in Africa as they begin a three month US speaking tour.

February 1,8, 15, 22 - God Talk 101 "Words, Words, Words"

Chapel

A mini-Course in Preaching for Listeners will be led by the Rev. Dr. Butch Henderson. Meeting for four sessions in an informal setting with no preparation necessary, we will consider the power of language and the spoken Word, how to listen to a sermon, the importance of language in articulating faith, and just why all this matters. Butch is a recently retired minister who served Claremont United Church of Christ as Senior Pastor for twenty years. He and his wife Rosemary have adopted CPC as their interim church family.



Children/ Youth Worship Experience

The third CPC Children and Youth Worship experience will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 22. All youth, from pre-school to high-school, are invited to come celebrate the Jewish festival of Purim.

Interfaith Interchange with Temple Beth Israel

Claremont Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Israel (TBI) have been learning from each other through an annual pulpit exchange for over 30 years. On Sunday, February 1 Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz will preach for our Sunday service. Cantor Paul Buch will lead us in learning a new song and members of the Temple choir, led by Marjie Ludwig, will join our choir. On Friday, February 6 at 7:30, Pastor Karen Sapio will preach at TBI's Sabbath service. Pastor Rocky Supinger and members of our choir will also assist with the service. The Temple invites everyone to join for an Oneg (that means really good refreshments!) after the service.

Workshop for Couples

It's not too late to sign up for the free workshop for couples that will be led by CPC Parish Associate Dave Lutz on eight consecutive Sunday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. beginning February 8. This workshop is great for all couples who wish to deepen their commitment and learn better relationship skills - at any age! MML (Mastering the Mysteries of Love) teaches ten essential relationship skills that work together to change how couples listen, talk, solve problems and relate to each other.

Child care will be provided for \$5.00 each family each week. Call the church office now at (909) 624-9693 to sign up.

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent is a time of repentance, preparation and self-discovery leading to Easter. Lent is forty days long, not counting Sundays, and begins on Ash Wednesday. There will be a service in the Sanctuary at **7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 25.**

Lenten Group Ideas

Lent begins on February 25. Each year Claremont Presbyterian Church invites everyone to join a Lenten Small Group as part of this season of preparation to walk the way of the Cross. Over the years, some of the most meaningful groups have been those led by members of our congregation with a passion for a particular topic, practice or activity.

Are you feeling a spiritual prompting to lead a Lenten group this year? Do you have a spiritual practice you would like explore with others? A book from the Bible you would like study with a group? A topic you would like to discuss in depth? An activity that feeds your soul that you would like to share?

If you do, consider forming a small group for Lent. Here is how it will work:

First: Contact one of our pastors to discuss your idea. Karen or Rocky can help you clarify your goals, suggest resources, and put you in touch with others who may have a similar inspiration.

Second: Provide a one paragraph description of the group you propose so that it can be included in a bulletin insert on February 15.

Third: Plan to sit at a table on the patio after worship on February 15 to talk to people about your group and sign up those who would like to participate.

Fourth: If your group wants to meet at the church, contact the church office to reserve a meeting space. If you will be meeting elsewhere, let the office know that too, so we can keep a list of where groups are meeting.

So – start thinking and praying! We trust that the Holy Spirit is already at work calling people from our community to a Lenten journey of growth and joy.





Welcome Our Congolese Guests

On behalf of the Mission Interpretation Commission, I invite you to welcome Bernard Kabibu and Leon Mubikayi to Claremont and CPC February 2 - 14.

Bernard is the Hospital Administrator and Leon is the Medical Director of the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. IMCK was started as a nursing school by Presbyterian Missionaries, and it has since grown, through the support of Presbyterian Women, the Medical Benevolence Foundation, and several PC(USA) congregations, to include a hospital and a community nutrition center.



Bernard and Leon will be touring the U.S. from February through April to raise awareness and support for IMCK's work, and they're beginning their tour here. Please join us in adult education and worship on Sunday, February 8 as we welcome Bernard and Leon.

Also, during their 12-day Claremont stay (at Porter Hall in Pilgrim Place), CPC members will have the opportunity to get to know Bernard and Leon a little better by having them over for dinner. If you would like to welcome our guests into your home for a meal, please contact Pastor Rocky (rsupinger@claremontpres.org), who is putting together their schedule.



Dr. Mubikayi was born in Luebo, and attended the University of Kisangani. He specialized in OB/GYN at Ivory Coast followed by a specialty in Public Health at the same institution. He was a medical intern at the Missionary Hospital of the Evangelists at Karawa, North Equator Province, Congo from 1989 to 1991.

Dr. Mubikayi was Doctor in Charge of the Health Zone of Karawa prior to coming to Good Shepherd Hospital in Tshikaji, Congo as OB/GYN in 1993. He went on to become Doctor in Charge of the Medical Zone of Tshikaji and Head of OB/GYN Services at Good Shepherd Hospital. In 2004 Dr. Mubikayi expanded his responsibilities and became the Medical Director and Doctor in Charge of OB/GYN at IMCK. Since 2006 he has also served as President of the Medical/Health Commission Combating Violence Against Women and Girls, and as an expert and trainer for the repair of vaginal fistulas.

Dr. Mubikayi is married to Nelly Ngomba Muteba Mubikayi and has six children.

Bernard Kabibu was born at Mboi Mission Station in Western Kasai, DR Congo. He earned a B.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language and Sociology from Kananga Teachers Training College. He taught English as a Second Language in Secondary Schools and at Ndesha Seminary. He was also a secondary school director at Katoka and Mboi, and directed Church Women Literacy Programs at Ndesha Mission and in Presbyterian Church of the Congo(CPC) churches.

In 1988 Mr. Kabibu became the Dental Clinic Administrator at IMCK, and went on to become the IMCK personnel manager. Since 2001 he has been the IMCK/Good Shepherd Hospital Administrator.

Mr. Kabibu speaks French, English, Tshiluba and Bindi (his mother tongue.) He is married to Astrid Mujinga, and has been blessed with nine children and eight grandchildren.

PDA Response to Those Affected by Mid-East Conflict

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is supporting relief efforts as a member of the Action by Churches Together (ACT) International alliance. ACT efforts include those of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)'s Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), International Orthodox Christian Charities and other long-time PC(USA) partners. These are initial efforts and will be expanded later as the situation further unfolds. The PDA-supported efforts have included provision of food, medicine and blankets, as well as the deployment of trauma counselors.

To contribute to this effort you can contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Fund DR000081-F1 by check or on-line at www.pcusa.org/pda

Final Reminder

Saturday, February 21 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, Presbyterian Women will host our Annual Luncheon/Book Review featuring Elaine Walker, Reference Librarian at The School of Theology in Claremont. Elaine is a beloved figure at CPC, widely admired for her spirited book reviews and decades long involvement at CPC.

Our last several book reviews have examined the immigrant experience in the U.S.: Iranian-American, Mexican-American and now, in the book *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, the Bengali (Indian)-American experience. Images of India have been brought to our attention in a recent PBS series, in scenes earlier in the news of the terror in Mumbai, and in the popular film "Slumdog Millionaire." The film version of *The Namesake* introduces its own set of images, surprisingly faithful to the book. We hope to show clips of the film.

Tickets @ \$15.00 will be on sale on the patio on Sundays February 1, 8, and 15. We encourage tables of eight. This is Presbyterian Women's only fundraiser, proceeds to send delegates to the 2009 Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville. A local Indian restaurant will cater the event.

Annual Meeting February 8

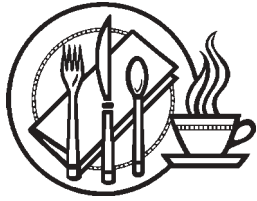
The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, February 8. Reports of the church's life in 2008 as well as the budget for 2009 will be presented. All members of CPC are encouraged to attend.

Confirmation Retreat Set

After three and a half months of meeting weekly for Bible study and venturing out into the community to engage in pressing issues, the 2008-2009 confirmation class and their mentors will go away on retreat. From Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 15 the group of high schoolers and adults will join together in reflecting on the gospel of Mark, praying, discerning where God is calling each of us to serve and the faith God is cultivating in us. This will all happen at a large four-bedroom cabin in Green Valley Lake.

Once the retreat has ended, so has the first phase of the confirmation process. Beginning in March, confirmands will take part in weekly catechism classes to learn about and examine the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostle's Creed.

Please continue to pray for and support our confirmands as they seek God's direction for their life.



National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) meets monthly at CPC and has for decades. There are Care and Share groups, excellent programs, a library, free literature and information to help any interested people. A free 12-week class is also offered.

At the Alternative Christmas Market held in December at CPC, Christmas cards and note cards designed by people with mental illness from all over the world were sold. \$279.00 was raised and all proceeds go for research for schizophrenia, depression and other mental disorders.

Everyone is welcome to attend NAMI meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at Claremont Presbyterian Church.

Session Digest

At its December meeting the Session:

- Welcomed our incoming class of Elders, and shared stories of appreciation for the class of 2008, who have served their terms faithfully and well.
- Received an optimistic report from Stewardship Chair Dee Kelley regarding the pledge campaign for the '09 budget year.
- Noted the good service of Anita Hughes and Wendy Menefee-Libey as faithful Presbytery Commissioners for the past several years, as they are retiring from the position and being replaced by current elders.

~Steve Sittig, Clerk of Session

New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Claremont Presbyterian Church? Our next set of New Member classes will be held on February 8 and February 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the church library. Speak to one of the pastors for more information or check our church website. Go to www.claremontpres.org and click on the "Membership" tab.

All Church Retreat Memorial Weekend

Save the Date! CPC Family Camp for 2009 is set for May 23 - 25 at Beautiful Rancho La Scherpa near Santa Barbara. We will be taking registrations soon! Plan to join us on this restorative weekend. Family Camp is for the entire Church Family - all ages and generations are encouraged to attend.

People in the Church: the Family of John & Rita Watts

“Give me a child until the age of seven, and I will give you a faith for life.”

That boast of the ancient Catholic Church doesn't seem to fit many Catholics today, if it ever did. It highlights, however, a concern that is constant among parents in any church: how do we give to our children a faith that will sustain them in their lives?

Is there a clear answer? Is there a formula? If the experience of John and Rita Watts is any indication, the answer is yes, and... no.

John and Rita grew up in Chicago, he a Presbyterian and she a Catholic. For both of them church was a positive experience that they hoped could be true for their children as well. John especially appreciated the role the church played in his teenage years. “Our youth program was a fellowship, a center of activity, of reflection, where we would discuss the topics of the day, learn about ourselves, and explore other parts of the world,” he recalled.

As their children – daughters Merritt and Caitlin, then sons Daniel and Steven – were born, John and Rita maintained strong connections to churches in the communities where they lived. They came to Claremont and joined CPC more than ten years ago, and it is here where their children had their most formative experiences.

What were their hopes for their children? Rita put it best: “I hoped that church would provide our kids with a history, a sense of faith, and a group of friends – a kind of church family.”

John too emphasized the importance of the church as a family, adding that the church was not a “club.”

To what extent were their hopes realized? The oldest children, Merritt and Caitlin, found the church to be a nurturing, central part of their lives. They were confirmed, played key roles in PYGs, and Merritt became a Youth Elder and member of Session. As for Caitlin, even today, when she comes home from college, Caitlin is the first on Sunday to say, “I'm going to church. Who else is coming?” Neither Caitlin nor Merritt went through that period common to teenagers when they question and challenge the principles of their parents' faith.

It fell to Daniel, the oldest son, in the jumble of family dynamics, to assume the role of questioner, of doubter. Some of the Biblical stories seemed too close to fables to command his assent. They assaulted his sensibilities. Daniel

kept his distance from CPC as a teenager and chose not to be confirmed. His own sense of truth and honesty blocked any deeper commitment. While John and Rita might have wished for Daniel to have a faith more like his sisters, they supported him and told him it was all right to question, that indeed the history of our faith was one of many people struggling with questions and doubts. Daniel's journey is not finished. While he cannot imagine a certainty of faith in his own life, if there comes a time when he has his own family, he would like to think the church could play an important role for his children.

Perhaps influenced by Daniel's example, Steven, now 16, recalls a time when he pulled away from the church, but other factors influenced him as well. As his older sisters left home and went away to college, Steven felt his family dwindle in size. The times they could spend together became fewer and more precious to him. Church became one of those places that reinforced family. In addition, he found a good set of friends in the youth group. Steven was confirmed last year and remains active in CPC.

When you think about the experience of the Watts family, that old boast of creating a “faith for life” for every child seems to reveal an appalling lack of understanding of the diversity of children. It seems more accurate to say that there is no formula that works for everyone. In the case of the Watts family, one thing stands out: every child, each now a young adult, has considered faith and church participation very seriously, either to embrace it or to challenge it. It matters. It matters a great deal.

And we who are part of the larger church family, who in the rituals of the church from baptism on pledge our support and care for these youth in our midst, what do we say? What do we do? How does it matter to us? Our journey together is ongoing. May it continue.

~ Dick Johnson

Please Be Seated

Have you noticed that sitting in our pews has been growing more comfortable over the last few weeks? Through a generous donation in memory of Roger Wheeler from Mary Wheeler and her family, we have been able to have our pew cushions cleaned and refurbished. Thanks to the Wheeler family for their generosity. The Pastors warn everyone not to get so comfortable that they fall asleep during worship!



For in the one spirit
we were all baptized
into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13

New Additions to Church Library

Have you visited the church library lately? The library contains a great selection of books, with new ones being added each year. The most recent additions are:

Adult Nonfiction

Chittister, Joan. *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*. BlueBridge, 2008. (200.84 CHI)

Cobb, John B., ed. *Resistance: The New Role of Progressive Christians*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2008. (230.040 RES)

Clinton, Bill. *Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World*. Knopf, 2007. (361.7 CLI)

Collins, Ace. *More Stories behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas*. Zondervan, 2006. (783.65 COL)

Friedman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution, and How It Can Renew America*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. (363.7 FRI)

Harwood, Laurence. *C. S. Lewis, My Godfather: Letters, Photos, and Recollections*. IVP Books, 2007. (248.2 HAR)

Hawkins, Pamela C. *Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent*. Upper Room Books, 2007. (242.3 HAW)

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/08	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$540,805	\$550,000
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	86,965	80,800
Expenses	(637,789)	(651,349)
VARIANCE	(10,019)	(20,549)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/08	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$596,356	\$643,502
Expenses	(577,415)	(628,034)
VARIANCE	18,941	15,468

Kramer, Martin S. *Arab Awakening and Islamic Revival: The Politics of Ideas in the Middle East*. Transaction Publishers, 2008. (320.5 KRA)

Pausch, Randy, with Jeffrey Zaslow. *The Last Lecture*. Hyperion, 2008. (B PAU)

Terkel, Studs. *Will the Circle be Unbroken?: Reflections on Death, Rebirth, and Hunger for a Faith*. New Press, 2001. (128.5 TER)

Zaru, Jean. *Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks*. Fortress Press, 2008. (956.95 ZAR)

Fiction

Berg, Elizabeth. *We Are All Welcome Here*. Random House, 2006. (FIC BER)

McCall Smith, Alexander. *The Good Husband of Zebra Drive*. Pantheon Books, 2008. (FIC MCC)

---. *The Miracle at Speedy Motors*. Pantheon Books, 2008. (FIC MCC)

Yehoshua, Abraham B. *A Woman in Jerusalem*. Harcourt, 2006. (FIC YEH)

Biography

Kingshill, Konrad. *On the Precipice of Prejudice and Persecution*. AuthorHouse, 2008. (B KIN)

Children and Juvenile

Boling, Ruth L. *Mouse Tales: Things Hoped For: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. (J FIC B)

Buller, Laura. *A Faith Like Mine: A Celebration of the World's Religions, Seen through the Eyes of Children*. DK Pub., 2005. (J 200 B)

Goble, Paul. *Song of Creation*. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2004. (E G)

I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children. Selected by Marian Wright Edelman. HarperCollins, 2005. (J 808.8 I)



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 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 Performing Arts Series 2008/2009

presents

Jack Sanders

Guitar and Luthier

Saturday, February 9, 2009 7:00 p.m.

Jack Sanders is equally at home playing music of all periods. 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.



Jack Sanders' performances have included the Sitka Summer Music Festival, Kapalua Music Festival of Hawaii, Arrowhead Bach Festival, and solo appearances with numerous orchestras, including the Illinois Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Santa Fe, Modesto Symphony, Orange County Chamber Orchestra and South Coast Symphony. He has performed with the St. Petersburg, Colorado, and Angeles String Quartets, the vocal group I Cantori, and the contemporary chamber ensemble XTET. Radio appearances have included NPR's nationally broadcast "West Coast Live."

Azusa Pacific University Gospel Choir

Saturday March 14, 2009 7:00 p.m.



Led by Letitia Ugwueke
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.

The choir, led by Letitia Ugwueke, performs at special events such as Hands Across Azusa, World Vision, the Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature, and Night of Champions. Future plans include a CD recording, national tour, and trips to Europe and Africa.

Coming this Season:

JAZZ BAND from Claremont High School

Saturday, May 09, 2009

7:00 p.m.

~Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee

COMMUNICATOR



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

Souper Bowl of Caring

Claremont Presbyterian Church will again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring on the day of the Superbowl football game which is February 1 this year.

As you leave worship on February 1, young people will be stationed at the doors holding large soup pots. A donation of \$1.00 per person is requested which will go directly to the food security program of the Inland Valley Hope Partners

Last year just over \$300 was collected at CPC. Congregations throughout the nation participate, donating to the hunger program of their choice. Over \$5 million was raised nationwide in 2008.

Save the Date!

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| March 14 | Azusa Pacific Gospel Choir Concert |
| March 27-29 | High School Retreat |
| March 28 | Choir Workshop |
| April 5 | Palm Sunday |
| April 12 | Easter Sunday |

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.