



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2010

February Worship Plans

Friday, February 5 7:30 p.m.

*Annual Interfaith Exchange
at Temple Beth Israel*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
at the Temple's Service

Joint Choirs Singing

Reception with Refreshments Following

Sunday, February 7 10:00 a.m.

*Annual Interfaith Exchange
with Temple Beth Israel*

Dialogue sermon:

Rabbi Kupetz and Pastor Sapio
at CPC

Gospel Reading from Luke

Joint Choirs Singing

Special Coffee Hour Following Worship

Sunday, February 14 10:00 a.m.

*Jazz Sunday
with guests The Night Blooming Jazzmen*

Service of Holy Communion

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Wednesday, February 17 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Worship

Special Instrumental and Vocal Music

Sunday, February 21 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

Acts 9:1-19

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 28 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

Luke 11:1-13

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

The Lent Event Is Here!

Are you ready for The Lent Event?

This year Lent begins on February 17. I hope you have all had a chance to read and hear about the opportunity for everyone in our congregation to spend the six weeks of Lent as part of a small group dedicated to deepening faith, rediscovering the Good News of the gospel, and exploring the vitality of Christian Community.

Small Groups will be meeting on several different days and times to accommodate many different schedules. Each group will be using the book *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing*, by Martha Grace Reese as their guide. You will find a registration sheet in this newsletter where you can sign-up to be part of small group at a time that meets your needs.

Already some exciting things are happening!

- A dozen people have said "Yes!" to being small group leaders and have begun preparing.
- More than 25 people registered for small groups the first Sunday of sign-ups on January 17.
- A small group has gathered to pray weekly since early December for this event to bless our congregation and lead us into more daring mission and ministry.
- Pastors and staff are working on preaching and worship plans that will coordinate with the themes and spiritual exercises the small groups will be following.

If you have been wondering what to give up for Lent, consider this:
Give up being too busy to nurture your spiritual growth!

Sign-up today to be a part of this experience!

Karen Sapio

Sunday Morning at Nine - Adult Education

Hard Times Then and Now (continued)

Room 1

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, unemployment nationwide hit 25%. The theme song for the decade became "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" As individual need overwhelmed charities, the federal government instituted programs that forever changed American society. In the 1960's, as the Depression faded from public memory, Studs Terkel collected scores of reminiscences, highly diverse, bitter as well as sweet, from those who had survived that ordeal, and put them in a book, *Hard Times*.

Today, in our worst "recession" since the 1930's, unemployment is once again in double digits, and there are regional and demographic pockets of the nation and California where it equals that of the Depression. How did people cope then, and how are we doing now? What have we learned? In this "Coffee and a Good Book" series, led by David Menefee-Libey and Dick Johnson, we will compare the stories and experiences of an earlier generation with that of our own today. Please join us, and bring your stories.

February 7 - no class

February 14 What are the Lessons?

p. 346 Pauline Kael – the rich don't understand

p. 195 Nathan Ackerman – people no longer feel responsible for what happens to them

p. 450 W. Clement Stone – "Please God, help me sell."



February 6 Concert for Orchestra and Organ

The Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee is pleased to announce that on February 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., 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.

Ash Wednesday Worship February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Begin the season of Lent with this service of prayer and contemplation. We will share the mark of Ashes as a sign of repentance, forgiveness and hope.

CPC Annual Jazz Sunday February 14

You won't want to miss worship on Sunday, February 14 when Chet Jaeger and the Night Blooming Jazzmen lead us in worship. Jazz Sunday is a long standing tradition at CPC.

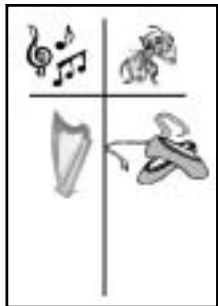
The Night Blooming Jazzmen are an internationally known Dixieland jazz band which has been in existence since 1975. We are fortunate to have their leader, Chet Jaeger, as a member of CPC and thank him and his band for all the years they have graced us with their presence in worship.

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

We Pray for Haiti

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding in Haiti. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has already sent funds and is working in cooperation with our ecumenical partners on the ground to provide emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Please pray for those affected and give to the ongoing relief through PDA account number DR000064. Gifts can also be made by phone at (800) 872-3283, and checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



Interfaith Exchange with Temple Beth Israel Friday, February 5 and Sunday, February 7



This past year saw loud, ugly, shouting matches among groups in our country who disagree on serious matters. In such times, our 30-year tradition of interfaith dialogue and worship with Temple Beth Israel stands as a sign that groups with different points of view can forge ties of friendship and respect.

This year CPC will join TBI for their Friday Sabbath Service at 7:30 on February 5th. Pastor Karen Sapio will preach. On Sunday, February 7th, members of TBI will be guests for our Sunday worship. This service will feature a dialogue sermon by Rabbi Kupetz and Pastor Sapio on the gospel text for the day. At each service, the joint choirs of both congregations will sing.



Nursery Care for our Youngest Members

Don't you love watching all of those children during "Time With the Children" each week? Wouldn't you like to get to know them better, and become one of the adults they run up to on the patio after church? Here is your opportunity to take action on the vows we make as a congregation to nurture the children who are baptized in our church.

For the past several months Julie Starrett has been volunteering to staff the nursery, since Gwen Bray resigned. We would like to share that responsibility with many members of this church family, even as we thank Julie for her loving care in the nursery.

Beginning Sunday, February 7, we will be staffing the nursery with two adults, along with Adam Cave, our capable Nursery Assistant. A sign-up board will be on the patio after church on Sundays, so you may choose the days you would like to help out. All volunteers will complete a Volunteer Registration Form and Background Check permission form, to comply with CPC policy.

The search committee continues the process to replace Gwen. If you know of anyone who would like the position, please contact Meredith Clayton at rocky.meredith@gmail.com.

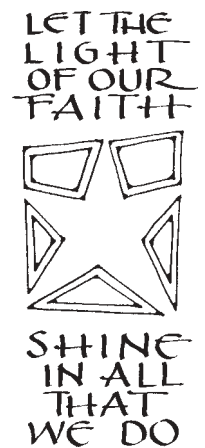
~*Teddie Warner, Chair,
Christian Education Commission*

Youth at CPC

January saw the youth of CPC coming together again after the winter break. On January 10th six of them joined five adult advisers to take in "Avatar 3D" at the Edwards Theater in La Verne. Three of them accompanied Pastor Rocky to Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center in Yucaipa for a retreat the weekend of the 16th-18th. There were PYG and PYGlet meetings on the 24th, and a special canned food collection at Pilgrim Place for the food pantry of the Foothill AIDS Project.

Coming up in February is the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday the 7th; after worship, a special offering will be taken for Inland Valley Hope Partners, one of CPC's important mission partners in feeding the hungry. Look for the big soup kettles! There will be a PYG and PYGlet gathering on the 14th, a game night on the 21st, and the 30 Hour Famine on Friday and Saturday, the 26th and 27th.

The 30 Hour Famine is a fundraising event for hunger organized by World Vision. CPC students will invite people to support them as they go 30 hours without food (you don't have to fast to participate.) All the monies raised by our students will go toward helping hungry people. If you would like to support our students, you can contribute online. Simply go to <https://donate.30hourfamine.org/students/42265640-001/donations/new>



People in the Church: Pat Beswick

Her eyes displaying a familiar twinkle, Pat Beswick remarked, “I was a Presbyterian before I was born.” At first I thought she was affirming predestination, but it turned out Pat had in mind a different claim. “I went to church every Sunday in my mother’s womb.”

Pat grew up in East McKeesport, Pennsylvania, a small town about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh. It’s a great environment for a child: everybody knows you, not much chance to get into real trouble, church and faith play a prominent role. By the time they are teenagers, however, many people find small town life stifling and they want to experience something more. Pat set her jaw and applied to Blackburn College in southern Illinois. Almost immediately upon her arrival she was “terrified” by the college environment and “terribly homesick.” Tears appeared unbidden, cascading down her face. Her agony was so obvious that “the other kids were betting whether I would last.”

A friend helped her pull through, and Pat went on to graduate from Blackburn and work, mostly in Chicago, for the next eight years. Then her father suffered a stroke. She returned to the Pittsburgh area, helping out at home.

Then in 1970 Pat’s life changed forever, and in very dramatic fashion. Her home church in East McKeesport asked her to become the church secretary. Pat loved the church, but she had not intended to remain in that small town. The salary, too, was pretty meager. Was this an opportunity or a death sentence?

So Pat sat down and had a rather frank talk with God. It went something like this: “look, God, if you want me to do this, you had better give me a sign, and I mean a really clear sign!” Pat had described herself to me as growing up kind of shy and backward, but I detected no shyness between her and God. Amen. In some ways it seemed like Pat was daring God. Pat sat back and waited for the sign. And it came.

That Sunday Pat sang in the choir, as always. They took up the hymn, “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart.” Here’s the first stanza:

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.*

The choir began the second stanza. Suddenly Pat’s mouth fell open. Her lips stopped moving. She couldn’t form a single note. Here was her “sign.”

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.*

Or to put it in a more colloquial way, Pat felt God was saying, “Stop harassing me, girl. Don’t ask for magic. Just step out in faith!”

So the “sign” was *no sign!* You don’t need a sign if you have faith. Go do it.

A friend who had been sitting in the back of the church cornered Pat after the service. “What happened, Pat? You stopped singing during that second stanza.”

“So,” Pat confessed, “not only did I have my answer, I had a witness!”

There was something else, probably even more important, that happened that day. Pat had always believed in God, but until that day it was the God of her mother, the God of her church. After that day it was her God, Pat’s God, and her faith had gained a rock foundation.

Eight years later that little church of hers, part of the larger “rust belt” that was losing factory jobs and population, decided it could no longer afford even the small salary it had been paying Pat. The pastor, hoping to be helpful, said there was a director of a Presbyterian program in Tulsa who was looking for a receptionist. The next day the director called and offered to pay Pat’s expenses if she would come and consider the position. Nobody asked God for a sign this time.

She spent the next two years in Tulsa as the receptionist for the “Literacy and Evangelism” program, sponsored by the PCUSA. She had the opportunity to meet and confer with many national Presbyterian leaders. It was a breath of fresh air, a wonderful growth experience. “I was becoming somebody,” Pat revealed.

Others took note as well. In 1980 one of those Presbyterian leaders asked Pat to become the secretary for the Church of Christ in Thailand. Thailand! Pat had never even had – or needed – a passport. If I were in her shoes I might have felt the need to check in once more with God, you know, looking for a little confirmation. Pat, however, asked for no sign. Pat went to Thailand, where she met Carolyn and Konrad Kingshill. After her first position ended Konrad urged her to take on a new assignment.

The death of her sister-in-law made Pat realize how much she was missing her own family. She returned to Pennsylvania for two years and helped



(see **Pat** on page 6)

Pat (cont. from Page 5)

her brother raise his children. Then Pat's sister in Diamond Bar invited her to live with her family. Although raised a Presbyterian, Pat's sister married a Catholic. They compromised by attending a Lutheran church.

That's where CPC enters the picture. Pat set out to find a Presbyterian church, and something – I don't know what – brought this conservative woman to CPC. "The first Sunday I attended was the Temple Exchange. What was that all about? The next Sunday there was a liturgical dance! And the Sunday after that was Jazz Sunday!"

"Pat," I asked, wide-eyed, "what kept you, a conservative Presbyterian, coming back?"

"I figured God was trying to tell me to loosen up a bit." Speaking more about her experience at CPC, Pat said, "God was teaching me. I had a lot to learn about being a Christian."

A lot to learn, even more to teach. Amen, amen.

~Dick Johnson

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$527,949	\$545,000
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	79,263	68,500
Expenses	(626,963)	(650,629)
VARIANCE	(19,751)	(37,129)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$497,542	623,872
Expenses	(545,501)	(643,146)
VARIANCE	(47,959)	(19,274)

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

Valentine's Day Parents' Night Out!

Celebrate Valentine's Day early, and support Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center's spring fundraiser!

Bring your little ones to CPCC for an evening of crafts, movies, dinner, and fun with friends and teacher volunteers on

Saturday, February 13, 2010 between 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

CPC children and friends age 11 and under are welcome.

A recommended donation of \$30 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child is appreciated!

Pre-registration is **required**.

There will be forms available on the patio following worship. Complete the form and return it to the Children's Center Director's office (or tuition box outside office)

by **Wednesday, February 10, 2010.**





Presbyterian Women of CPC honor and celebrate
Elaine Walker
for her ten years of annual luncheon/book reviews

Saturday, February 20

11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

This year's book is *In the Bleak Midwinter*
by Julie Spencer-Fleming

Lunch catered by Jean Hamilton Catering

Tickets are \$15.00
available on the patio January 31,
February 7 and February 14

Conscientious Projector

Conscientious Projector is a monthly gathering of mindful, passionate people coming together to screen documentaries about important current justice issues, and to discuss these viewpoints from a variety of perspectives. Screenings are free to the public, just bring an open mind and a desire to discuss!

Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. the film *Tying the Knot* will be screened at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street in Claremont.

When a bank robber's bullet ends the life of police officer Lois Marrero, her wife of thirteen years, Mickie, is honored as her surviving spouse but denied all pension benefits. When Sam, an Oklahoma rancher, loses his beloved husband of 22 years, long-estranged cousins of his late spouse try to lay claim to everything Sam has. As Mickie and Sam's lives are put on trial, they are forced to confront the tragic reality that in the eyes of the law their marriages mean nothing. From an historical trip to the Middle Ages, to gay hippies storming the Manhattan marriage bureau in 1971, *Tying the Knot* digs deeply into the past and present to uncover the meaning of civil marriage in America today.



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

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

Sermon Recordings

Did you know that audio files of sermons at Claremont Presbyterian Church can be found on the church website? Each Sunday morning service is recorded and John Watts then uploads the sermons to the internet. Go to CPC's website at www.claremontpres.org and click on the "Worship at CPC" tab. Then click on "Sermons."

Save the Date!

March 14	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 28	Palm Sunday
April 1	Maundy Thursday
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter Sunday

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.