



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

July/August 2010

## Summer Worship Plans

**Sunday, July 4 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Luke 10:1-11, 16-21

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, July 11 10:00 a.m.**

*Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 1: Luke 5:27-39

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, July 18 10:00 a.m.**

*Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 2: Luke 7:36-50

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, July 25 10:00 a.m.**

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 3: Luke 9:10-17

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, August 1 10:00 a.m.**

*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 4: Luke 14:1-14

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

**Sunday, August 8 10:00 a.m.**

*Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 5: Luke 14:15-27

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

**Sunday, August 15 10:00 a.m.**

*Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 6: Acts 2:41-46

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, August 22 10:00 a.m.**

*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Table Talk 7: Acts 10:1-11, 18

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, August 29 10:00 a.m.**

*Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Luke 13:10-17

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

## From the Pastor

When you list your assets, what do you list? Money in the bank? Real estate owned? An investment portfolio? These kinds of assets are fairly easy to measure. Harder to quantify is the value of our social capital. The website BetterTogether.org defines social capital as *the collective value of all "social networks" [who people know] and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other ["norms of reciprocity"]*. The term social capital emphasizes not just warm and cuddly feelings, but a wide variety of quite specific benefits that flow from the trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation associated with social networks. Social capital creates value for the people who are connected and - at least sometimes - for bystanders as well.

In the gospels, we see Jesus working to create social capital among groups of people who did not normally relate to one another: tax collectors and religious leaders, fishermen and political activists, Roman soldiers and Jewish peasants, Samaritans and Judeans. The Book of Acts refers again and again to the new social capital emerging among the early church as barriers between Jew and Greek, male and female, slave and free began to come down.

Many observers of contemporary culture lament the decline of social capital in our lives. Neighbors do not know one another. Fewer people have time for church, PFAs, or community service organizations. Even such simple acts of hospitality as inviting friends over for dinner or hosting spontaneous playdates for your kids and the kids down the block are happening less frequently. When social capital declines, they argue, communities are impoverished even if, on the surface, they seem quite affluent financially.

Jesus tells his followers that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Does this tell us that Christians have a unique role to play in their communities as creators and sustainers of social capital? This summer we will explore this idea through a sermon series called **Table Talk: Social Capital around the Table Stories in Luke and Acts**. Luke often sets his stories about Christian community around a table or meal. We will consider together what these stories might teach us about social capital both through worship and through activities that invite us to take steps toward bonding, bridging and linking with others. See the July/August calendar for a calendar of these special events.

*Karen Sapio*

## Summer Break for Church School

Now that summer is here our 9:00 Church School classes for Adults, Children & Youth will take a break. Please join us in September when Christian Education offerings for all ages resume at the 9:00 hour. (See separate article on "Godly Play" on Page 3.)

## Summer! Surprise!

Exciting things are happening this summer, as the Children at Claremont Presbyterian Church are involved in the ministry of the church. Each Sunday through August 8 children entering first grade through sixth grade are invited to participate in our *Photowalking the Psalms* program. Following the Time with the Children in worship the children will be sent out to capture visual metaphors drawn from Psalms. The children will go on weekly walks, and each child will be encouraged to take pictures that represent to them the theme of the week inspired by various psalms. Please bring a digital camera if possible but please come even if you don't have one.

Look for the children's theological work on display in the Narthex. If you would like to be involved in working with the children and Krista on this project please contact Krista at [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org) or (909) 624-9693 (ext. 309).

## Come Follow Joseph's Journey

Claremont Presbyterian Church will host Vacation Bible School (VBS) **Monday - Friday, July 5 - 9** from 6:00 - 8:30 in the evening. Our VBS this year is called *Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*.

We have a link on the church website ([www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org)) to our VBS website. The VBS website is the most efficient way to register your child for VBS. The site is maintained by Group Publishing, the company that supplies the curriculum we have chosen. You may also register your child after church in the courtyard.

There are many volunteer opportunities available and needing to be filled in order to make this a wonderful experience for the children. On the VBS website, you can look at the different volunteer job descriptions and register to volunteer for whatever job you like.

We all look forward to making this a special experience for the children of our church family and of the community.

## Join Us for the 4th of July

Claremont Presbyterian Church and the Children's Center will continue to be an active presence in our community this year at the Fourth of July celebration in Memorial Park with an information booth and a float in the parade.

Sign ups will be taken to "man" an information booth from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The float, featuring the Children's Center, will be decorated after worship on Sunday, July 4 and all are welcome to participate in either the decorating or riding on the float in the parade.

## Calling All Acolytes

One of the privileges of being a 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Claremont Presbyterian Church is the chance to be an acolyte. Acolytes are those white-robed helpers in the worship services who do things like light the chancel candles, lead the Call to Worship, and collect the offering. These students play an important role in our church's worship.

The word *acolyte* actually means "attendant" or "helper." An acolyte's job is to help the pastors, elders, and musicians lead worship. It means learning all kinds of things about worship: what happens when? Why do things happen the way they do? Where do those robes come from? Why are there different colors in the sanctuary in different seasons? Acolytes get to learn all of those things, so that they can help the church understand them and grow closer to God in worship.

All students entering the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited into the Acolyte Order. The 2010/2011 class will start in September, coordinated by Kyungah Jung. There will be an orientation in which acolytes and their families will get to walk through the church and learn all the basics.

To get on the list of acolytes for next year, please call Pastor Rocky (909) 624-9693 by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## August 8 Youth Beach Trip

Just 'cause it's summer doesn't mean CPC youth can't get together. In fact, the summer allows us to get together with our friends from the Claremont UCC and UMC churches for some fun outings.

Sunday, August 8 we will go on a Beach Trip. After church we'll pile into cars and head to the beach for an afternoon of sun, sand, and food.

Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders and outgoing 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome!



## Godly Play

*"We believe that children have an experience of God at a very young age, but what they lack is the language to talk about it and to work with it. Godly Play is a discovery model of learning."*

Linda Clapp, Godly Play trainer

When Sunday School resumes in September, CPC's children will experience something new and different. They will go to a different room. They will do different things. These differences are a sign of the life and learning happening in our congregation.

This is Godly Play, an experiential model of Christian education. Godly Play invites children into a safe and nurturing space where they can explore their experience of God through the vocabulary, stories, rituals, and symbols of Christianity.

During the 9:00 hour, children of all ages will go to the chapel on the church's west wing, where they will be welcomed at the door by either Pastor Rocky or Krista Wuertz. They will take their place in a circle of learners sitting on the floor. Before them they will see shelves with materials for stories: stories about the church year, about the Holy Family, about Baptism and the Lord's Supper. To one side of them they'll see story materials for the great narratives of the Hebrew Bible. Parable shelves will line the wall behind them, and materials for their own work will beckon them from the opposite side.

## Stinger Meal

The women of *Crossroads*, and Sister Terry Dodge, will be joining the children of the congregation to prepare and serve a very special meal following worship on July 18. Please join us to watch the women and children work together to demonstrate (in classic cooking-show style) the preparation of a "Stinger Meal." The women from *Crossroads* will work with the children to show the unbelievable ingenuity employed by women who, during a time of incarceration, were able to use available ingredients and hot water to make some delicious treats. Of course, following the demonstration all will be invited to enjoy the delicacies, which we expect will include tamales, lemon pie, and more...

They will hear and see a story, told carefully, deliberately, and artfully. They'll wonder about the story: I wonder which part of this story is the most important? I wonder which part is about you? They'll do their own work with clay or string or pencils to respond to the story. They'll share a simple feast of crackers and juice together. They'll say goodbye and head to the sanctuary for worship.

We hope all of CPC's children will participate in Godly Play. We also hope the church's grown-ups will participate as well: as storytellers and greeters, or as contributors toward the cost of Godly Play materials. If you sense Godly Play beckoning you, please tell us! Call Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693 ext. 304; or email him at [rsupinger@claremontpres.org](mailto:rsupinger@claremontpres.org) or email or call Krista Wuertz at [kwuertz@claremontpres.org](mailto:kwuertz@claremontpres.org) or (909) 624-9693 ext. 309.

God go with us as we take this new step in sharing the good news with our children.

## The Power of 10: Walk for the Hungry

The Walk for The Hungry is October 10. This is an annual gathering of people from across the Pomona Valley to raise money for Inland Valley Hope Partners' which operates three food pantries and an emergency shelter. This year's walk has a fundraising goal of \$100,000, the highest goal ever. But it's reachable. It's reachable by the Power of 10.

Can 10 people from CPC do the walk? Can 10 youth? 10 Pilgrims? 10 families?

Can those 10 get donations of at least \$10 from at least 10 people? I think you get the idea.

Mark October 10 on your calendar, and if you'd like to take part, either by walking or donating, call or email Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693; [rsupinger@claremontpres.org](mailto:rsupinger@claremontpres.org).



A note from Pomona First Presbyterian Church, one of the recipients of the CPC 55th Birthday "Reverse Gift":

*Greetings!*

*Just wanted to share with you some good news! We've harvested our first vegetables, and have sold most of our community garden plots. Details about forthcoming garden events will be announced soon. Feel free to stop by anytime Tuesday through Friday from 4:30 to 7:30, or on Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00 at 192 East Center Street, Pomona 91767. Drew Rushton, the garden manager will be happy to show you around. See you there!*

## Confirmation

### **What Is It?**

An exploration of Christian faith: its core claims, practices, and texts

### **Who's It For?**

Any high school student who wants to explore Christianity for themselves (but not by themselves). Confirmation is for Baptized Members of CPC, Active Members of CPC, and students who aren't members of CPC at all.

### **How Long Is It?**

It begins in September and lasts through May. Over those nine months, it takes about an hour a week.

### **What's The Deal with Mentors?**

From September to January, you'll meet weekly with an adult mentor. This is an adult in the church who is not related to you. During your meetings, you and your mentor will read the Bible together, pray, and look for ways for life and faith to connect.

### **And the Retreat?**

In February we'll go on a weekend retreat, probably to the mountains. There we'll get to know one another better and explore some of the Big Ideas of Christianity

### **Is There a Confirmation Class?**

Yes. After the February retreat, we'll meet weekly as a group for "class." This lasts for 12 weeks and involves discussions about questions like, "Why did Jesus have to die?" and "Where did the Bible come from, anyway?" Class is about an hour a week.

### **Is There Homework?**

Only once, at the end, when you write a brief one-page thing called a "Faith Narrative."

### **Is Confirmation About Becoming A Church Member?**

Yes and no. Confirmation will give you the chance to make a profession of faith and so become an Active Member of the church if you want to. But you don't have to if you don't want to.

### **How do I Sign Up?**

Call Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693 or email him at [rsupinger@claremontpres.org](mailto:rsupinger@claremontpres.org). Tell him you want to do confirmation. Really, it's that easy.

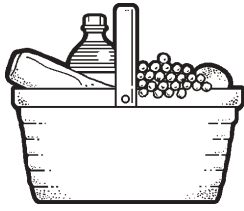
## **Conscientious Projector - Films for July & August**

**W**ednesday, July 21, 7:00 p.m. - *God Grew Tired of Us*. Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, the film explores the indomitable spirit of three "Lost Boys" from the Sudan who leave their homeland, triumph over seemingly insurmountable adversities and move to America, where they build active and fulfilling new lives but remain deeply committed to helping the friends and family they have left behind.

**W**ednesday, August 18, 7:00 p.m. - *Flow*, Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century - The World Water Crisis. Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel.



The Claremont Forum  
586 W. First Street  
Claremont, CA



Sunday, July 11

# Church Picnic

Bring a dessert, salad or side dish to share

The main dish will be an opportunity to sample "Dueling Chilis" in a splendid cook-off among some amazing local chili wizards.

There will be a bounce house and games for the kids.



## Response to Oil Spill

Several weeks ago one of my students came to me and asked if I knew of anything she could do about the spill. "I just want to go there and help...just wash the oil off of those poor birds", she said, with an earnestness that demonstrated her understanding that she is perhaps, a contemporary of the greatest anthropogenic environmental disaster in Earth's history. At that time, I had little to offer her. Being somewhat geographically isolated from this event, it seemed that all we have had to do is voice our dismay at how poorly the response has been managed. Meanwhile, the powers that be continue to search for a frustratingly elusive fix, as they simultaneously attempt to pass the blame for both, the cause and their ineffectiveness.

Last week, at the monthly meeting of the Claremont Interfaith Committee on Sustainability (<http://cics422.ning.com/>), we recognized that all of us claim some culpability in this disaster, as we are all consumers of oil. And while the magnitude of this event is monumental, spilled oil is not unique to BP so focusing our wrath on one company does not really address the problem. We brainstormed a bit and came up with the following avenues for a personal response:

"Individuals can change personal habits to be less oil dependent by:

(1) adopting the bicycle for short trips

(2) using public transportation: such as the local bus line #187 which goes to Pasadena (along Foothill...for \$1.00!)

(3) shopping local farmers markets on Sunday and Wednesday

(4) drip-irrigating your own vegetable garden

(5) composting instead of using, petrochemical based, inorganic fertilizers

(6) mitigating home energy usage

Its now more important than ever!"

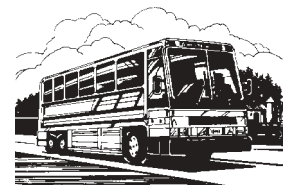
Until the oil spill I'd never taken the bus. About four weeks ago, I decided to see if I could finish out the school year without using a car, and decided to give the bus a try. I've found that I can pick up the 187 at the corner of Foothill and Mountain, put my bike on the front and for one dollar, ride all the way to Pasadena.

It takes about an hour and twenty minutes.

But the benefits are that I have my students' work graded on time, I read more, there's five pounds less of me, I exchange a "good morning" with several strangers each day, and I haven't put any gasoline in that second car for over a month. I'm thinking the pros have it over the cons.

So in an odd way, I suppose I'm grateful to BP for reinforcing all of the things I've been anxious about with respect to fossil fuels and for helping to spur me into taking action.

~Scott Randles



## Session Digest

At its May meeting, the Session:

- Met with the Confirmand class and heard their faith stories, and approved their requests for membership.
- Heard of Dakota's plan to attend General Assembly in June, as Young Adult Advisory Delegate.
- Learned of the attractive new website for the Children's Center.
- Discussed events surrounding CPC's 55th Anniversary celebration.
- Listened as Elder Judy Kohnen recounted several meaningful events during her recent trip to Iran.



*It is time to seek the Lord, that He may rain righteousness upon you.*  
Hosea 10:12

## Be a Host Family

Community Friends of International Students (CFIS) is a local organization providing support for college students from around the world attending one of the seven Claremont Colleges. For over 35 years CFIS has provided support for international students and International Place at the colleges, in a variety of ways. Welcome picnic, International Festival, Lunch & Conversation, Mentoring & Tutoring and the Holiday party are just a few events that help welcome and involve international students into the Claremont community.

Perhaps the most valuable program of CFIS is the **Host Family** accommodation. Most of these students are visiting the U.S. for the first time. Personal contact with a local resident along with a clean and comfortable place to stay for a few days helps students overcome their apprehensions about being in a new and different place. It is a welcoming and bonding experience for the student and provides a unique opportunity for their host(s) to learn about life in other countries and cultures. The relationships can last for a lifetime! Many members of our CPC family have served and continue to serve as host families.

If you would enjoy hosting an international college student in your home for a few days to a week, at the end of August, please contact CFIS Host Family Coordinator Peter Saeta at (909) 625-2655 or [saeta@hmc.edu](mailto:saeta@hmc.edu). John & Brenda Hill are also available to answer your questions about becoming a host family.

## Summer Choir in July

Calling all singers. Summer choir time is here and we would love to see whole families come and sing. Starting July 4, all that is required is coming to church at 9:00 a.m. and meeting in the choir room to learn a simple anthem for the service that morning. We would love to see the choir full of people of all ages and we encourage families to come and sing together. All ages, from young children to great-grandparents are welcome! Looking forward to singing with you on any or all Sundays in the month of July.

## Backpack Sunday

Several years ago the CPC Deacons adopted the children of Oakmont Elementary School. One way we show support to the school is to provide 30 backpacks filled with school supplies which we give to the principal, to be distributed to kids in need throughout the year. Here are several ways you can help support this caring ministry:

- 1) When you are buying school supplies for your own children, buy something extra. We are collecting binders, spiral notebooks, ruled paper, crayons, pencils, pens, scissors and glue sticks.
- 2) Monetary donations will be accepted on the patio after worship on August 1, 8, and 15. Checks can be mailed to the church office, with "Oakmont Backpacks" written on the memo line. The Deacons will purchase backpacks and any remaining items that are needed.
- 3) Volunteer your time to fill the backpacks after worship on Sunday, August 22.

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 05/31/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$199,032	\$218,750
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	37,711	30,917
Expenses	(251,745)	(262,742)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 15,002)</b>	<b>( 13,075)</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 05/31/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$188,667	182,605
Expenses	(194,158)	(205,147)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 5,491)</b>	<b>( 22,542)</b>

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](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) or fax to (909) 624-4743.

**Editor:** Jo Colclough

**Pastors**  
Karen Sapio  
Rocky Supinger

**Church School**  
9:00 a.m.  
(Except in Summer)

**Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care  
available both hours

## People in the Church: Ruth Mickel

It's a Thursday afternoon. Ruth Mickel and I are having a perfectly normal and delightful conversation, the kind you might have Sunday afternoon after church. We have been talking about CPC during the 55 years since Ruth was a founding member, when something unusual happens. Or maybe it's something so ordinary that it seems unusual.

I ask Ruth if she has any wishes for the future of CPC. She replies, "I hope they can continue to get along well with each other." To be honest, I am expecting something more monumental, so I am startled by the simplicity of Ruth's wish. Momentarily I feel a distant kinship with Robert Frost in his classic poem, "Mending Wall." Frost and his neighbor appoint a day each spring to repair the wall that separates their properties. Frost impishly queries his neighbor: why is the wall necessary, since nothing on either side threatens the other's property? He only gets the response, twice: "Good fences make good neighbors." And so I ask myself, as Frost implicitly asks, is there a wisdom here that I missed at first? Why is "getting along" so important to the life of a church?

Looking back over the 55 years of Ruth's life with CPC, I realize that America, and the Presbyterian Church as well, has experienced some remarkably difficult changes. When CPC began in 1955 the country still felt much of the common patriotism that had united it during World War II. A war hero and grandfather figure, Dwight Eisenhower, was president. But events were already shattering that sense of unity. McCarthyism, Civil Rights, Women's Liberation, the Vietnam War, the youth counter-culture, the terrible assassinations of John Kennedy, Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace all left America bitterly divided. In response, presidential candidates since the 1960's pledged that they would "bring us together," exorcise the "ghosts of Vietnam," and reunite us. As Dr. Phil likes to say, "How's that working for you?" When you think about all this ripping of the social fabric, you wonder if 1955 was such a good time after all to start a community church.

For CPC, a church strongly committed to social justice, each event since 1955 has carried the potential to divide and destroy the church. We have our "conservatives" who see the gospel message as primarily personal and wish the church would leave "politics" outside the church doors. And we have our "liberals" who see in the issues

affecting the nation a call to action for the church. More recently we have struggled with the issue of ordaining gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual persons. Then there's the question of "creation" vs. "evolution," and beneath that the question of what authority the Bible should have. What has kept us together, escaping the bitter divisions and recriminations that have blasted other churches? Ruth has no doubt. "We have been considerate of each other, she notes, "agreeing to disagree and move on."

But what's the source of that ability to accept disagreement within the church family? "Strong leadership," Ruth asserts. She mentions several strong leaders among the women from those early days – Betty Jackson, Grace Woodruff, Leta Dooley – and is grateful for Pastor Ken McCandless, who was "a big part in our life." Any church historian would of course have to put Ruth herself in that category. She was the first church secretary, one of the first church treasurers, and a founder of the Mariners and the Women's Association. Today at age 94, Ruth notes, with wry humor, "I am slowing down, but no one here [at Brethren Hillcrest Homes] notices it." Even so, she rarely misses worship service. Her firm handshake and clear gaze tell you immediately that she is a "can-do" person whom you would trust to get things done.

Nearing conclusion, our conversation shifts as Ruth acknowledges a gnawing pain in her heart. She has a fourth generation of great-grandchildren who are getting no religious training. "I am very concerned about their future." Her only hope, she says, is that "prayer will be the answer, that one day the miracle in their early lives will be recognized as such."

There is good reason for her hope. The church has been a central part of Ruth's life since she was a child. Sunday school, youth groups – she met her husband, George, in church. "Over sixty-six wonderful years together" – Ruth, George, their family, church – it all flowed together. They gave time, talent, money – pledges even when they could only rely on faith that they would be able to meet their own bills. And when they needed the support of others, such as the death of their son Wallace, and later George's death, the people of the church were there. "This," Ruth affirms, "is where you need the church family to fall back on." Experiencing such love, freely given and received, is a great blessing. Who wouldn't want that for others?

~Dick Johnson



### August 9 CPCC Fundraiser

Eat at El Rancho Restaurant, 984 W. Foothill Blvd. in Claremont on Monday, August 9 between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center. Just say you are there with the CPCC group. Great food and a great cause!

# COMMUNICATOR



Claremont Presbyterian Church  
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Claremont, CA 91711  
(909) 624-9693

Return Service Requested

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

## Summer Communicator

Life seems to slow down in the summer and the church is no exception. That is why there will be only one issue of the *Communicator* for July/August. The next *Communicator* will be the September issue.

## Before You Travel

Don't take your pledge on vacation! Church expenses remain steady through the summer when many of you go on vacation. If you are able to bring your pledge up to date before you leave, that is very helpful.

## Save the Date!

September 12 Kick Off Sunday  
September 19 Theological Education Sunday

## Leave of Absence

Our prayers are with our Parish Associate David Lutz as he takes a leave of absence to fully support his wife, Susan Nelson, as she continues her struggle with cancer.

## 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.