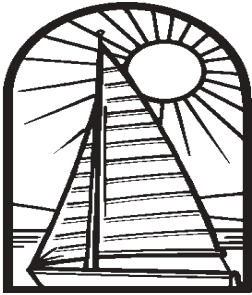




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

June 2009



J U N E

Worship Plans

Sunday, June 7 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

Graduate Recognition Sunday
Joint Children, Youth & Adult Choir
Preaching Through the Bible
“The Exodus Journey”
The Rev. Karen Sapio

Sunday, June 14 10:00 a.m.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible
“Wilderness and Law”
The Rev. Rocky Supinger

Sunday, June 21 10:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible
“The Land of Promise”
The Rev. Karen Sapio

Sunday, June 28 10:00 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible
“We Want a King!”
The Rev. Karen Sapio

Preaching Through the Bible: More Reflections on Scripture and Us

There is an old chestnut of a story about a young couple who are given a lovely Bible as a wedding gift from the groom’s uncle. They display it on a bookstand in their living room, but never read it. When they see the uncle at family gatherings, he always asks, “You read that Bible much?” They always answer, “Of course!” And the uncle always smiles and walks away. In the fullness of time, the uncle dies. One day, missing his uncle, the husband finally opens the Bible the old man gave them so many years ago—and discovers that, on the first page of every book, the uncle had inserted a twenty-dollar bill! The uncle knew they never opened that Bible because surely they would have commented on a gift of over a thousand dollars!

Why do so many of us own Bibles we rarely read?

Fear #1: *If I get too “into” the Bible I might turn into a fundamentalist fanatic.*

Not true. There are people of every possible religious, theological and cultural perspective who find the Bible fascinating, inspiring, challenging, comforting and illuminating. Dare to become one of them. St. Augustine wrote, “The Bible is God’s house and he wants us to play in it!”

Fear #2 *I need a thorough grounding in history, archeology, linguistics, and literary analysis before I’ll be able to understand what I’m reading.*

Not true. Scholarship provides essential insights into the context and meaning of Scripture. However, much of the Bible is story, poetry and wisdom that opens itself readily to prayerful, direct encounter with any reader. Begin there and seek out scholarly insights as questions arise from your reading.

Fear #3 *It’s too hard and will take too much time.*

True and Not True. Becoming proficient or fluent at anything requires effort. Think of other skills you have obtained in your life: speaking French, programming computers, doing carpentry, playing an instrument. Chances are, gaining these skills took effort and discipline—but chances are you are glad you made that effort.

Fear #4 *Reading the Bible might make me uncomfortable.*

True. It’s impossible to read the prophets’ strong words about care for the poor, or Jesus’ insistence on compassion and forgiveness without taking a look at our own lives and culture. Are you willing to be part of the change you want to see in the world?

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

People We Should Know

Room 1

Continuing from May, people who are fairly new to the area or new to us at CPC will share their perspectives on a variety of topics.

June 7 Rita and Wadie Alkhouri, members of CPC who came to the U.S. from Syria will share their experiences as Christians living in that culture.



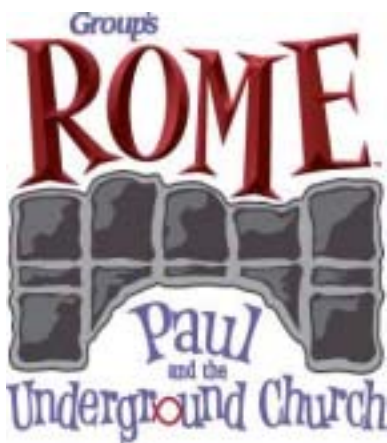
Exploring the Old Testament

Chapel

June 7, 14, 21, 28

Pastor Karen Sapio and Jim Butler, professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary, will guide us through the Old Testament in the last four weeks of this eight week series.

Vacation Bible School 2009



We're headed for the Med (the Mediterranean that is), but need some items for our travels. If you can help pack, we could use the following:

Returnable Items *

Backpacks
Large wicker baskets
Greek looking urns or pottery
Burlap bags
Large rugs
Wooden mallets
Pottery wheel
Portable kiln
Chain and leg shackle
Jump ropes
Shot (as in Shot put)
Javelin
Large bowls
Hula hoops
Wooden rulers
Metal buckets
Wading pool

**Please clearly mark returnable items with your name and telephone number*

Non-returnable Items

White sheets
Fabric strips for sashes
Small fabric cloth pouches (preferably not gauze)
White paper plates
Fabric markers
Sand paper (all grades)
Paintbrushes
Watercolor paints
Super absorbent paper towels
Imitation laurel (for wreaths)
Hay bales
Sugar cubes
Flour
Dried fruit (no bananas)
Olives
Sweetened almonds
Duct tape
Very large pieces of cardboard (fridge boxes, etc.)
Large paper bags
Newspaper



We could also use enthusiastic guides, artisans and actors
If you're willing to go underground, please adventure with us to see

Paul and the Underground Church

VBS (Vacation Bible School) is scheduled for
July 6 - 10 from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Contact Susan Townzen

Deacons Are Goin' Green (Salad that Is)



Mark your calendars for Parish Sunday
on June 14

for an all-parish, all-church salad bar.

Deacons will be planning a super salad bar for all to enjoy
immediately following morning worship.

Everyone is encouraged to sit, eat, and get better
acquainted with others in your parish (and beyond!)

Keep an eye out for details from your Deacon and in
upcoming church bulletins.

PYG Camping Trip to Santa Cruz Island

This summer the Presbyterian Youth Group (PYGs) is heading to the Channel Islands to camp, hike, explore, and rest. If you will be entering the 9th-12th grade next fall, or if you are a graduating senior this year, then you should consider coming along. Fifteen spots have been reserved, and registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

The group will leave Friday morning, June 26, before the sun comes up in order to make the early morning boat from Ventura to the island. Once we arrive, we'll hike back to our campsite, set up camp, and spend the rest of the weekend enjoying the natural beauty of the island. We will return Sunday morning, June 28.

Registration information will be mailed shortly.

PYG Work Trip to the U.S./ Mexico Border

The youth work trip to Tucson, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico is August 1-8. Youth who come on the trip will learn through their own experience about life on the border. In partnership with Borderlinks, our students will meet with community leaders and host a day camp for local children, among lots of other things.

Registration materials were mailed to high school students' homes in April. If you did not receive them, or if you need more information, please call Rocky at (909) 624-9693.

Children/Youth Worship Experience

Come celebrate with us as we honor the Jewish Holiday of Pentecost. We'll meet in Angell Courtyard at **8:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 7**. All youth, from preschool to high school, are invited.

Summer Surprise Starts June 21

The last week of 9:00 Sunday School is June 7. That means it's time for Summer Surprise! Beginning on Sunday, June 21, children who come to 10:00 worship may leave the Sanctuary with Pastor Rocky and Susan Townzen following the "Time with the Children" for a fun and unique time of story and surprise. All children who will be entering grades 3 - 6 in the fall are invited to participate in Summer Surprise.

Car Wash on June 21

Wondering what to get Dad for Father's Day? Why not wash his car? Or, better yet, have someone else wash his car? Here's your chance: on Sunday, June 21, you can treat dad to a special PYG Wash © in the church parking lot following worship. A handful of trained PYG Washers © will be available to hose down, suds, scrub, rinse, and dry Dad's car to a shiny sheeny shine. And the best part? All the money paid for PYG Washing © services will go toward the PYG work trip to the U.S./Mexico border.

So, this Father's Day, get Dad something different, something meaningful. Best of all, get Dad something that will be clean until it's dirty again: a PYG Wash ©!



People in the Church: Jane Dempsey Douglass

This year is the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth. It's also nearing the 50th anniversary of Jane Douglass' scholarly interest in Calvin, so it seemed a good time to learn more about Jane and what she has humorously called her "long affair" with Calvin.

The best teachers are those who know their subject, know their students, and have the passionate desire to convey their knowledge in ways that their students can apprehend. Jane is that master teacher, par excellence. I knew I was in for a rare treat when she agreed to let me interview her.

Although Jane is a well-known Calvin scholar, that might not seem "predestined." In fact, she confessed that at Harvard, where she took her Ph.D., "it was Martin Luther that I loved." Claremont changed her. In 1963 the School of Theology asked her to alternate a Luther seminar with a course on Calvin. Jane "approached Calvin with all of the usual stereotypes." But after three or four rounds of teaching Calvin she experienced "a conversion." Calvin became her favorite. Why?

John Calvin as a young Frenchman in Paris was trained to be a thoroughgoing humanist, embracing the newest scholarship of his time. Unlike Luther, a medieval monk who struggled with the traditions of the church and came to newer understandings later in life, Calvin seems often to be a man ahead of his times, more at home with us.

Having perhaps more than a fair share of my own "usual stereotypes," I begged for further explanation. The new humanists of the 16th century, she told me, had a broad cultural perspective. They were trained in the study of languages and history. They prized education, and saw it as the pathway for moral reform. These humanists, including Calvin, recognized that the Christian religion as practiced was based partly on "eternal laws" from God, but also on human laws. The latter Calvin called "matters of order and decorum," formed in part by a particular culture, prone to change over time.

Calvin recognized the importance of distinguishing eternal laws from temporary human laws. For example, when Paul advised the Corinthians that women should cover their heads and be silent in church, Paul was not declaring an eternal law. He was making accommodations to that culture, a culture that would of course change.

OK, so what about "predestination," I asked, hoping to get some enlightenment on a concept that has lost favor since Americans swung to believing they had the freedom to choose their own salvation. "It simply makes sense," Jane replied, "that if God is all-knowing, God will know us, past, present and future, even before we are born. There are passages in the

Psalms that affirm that." So before we were born, God already knew who were the "elect," destined for heaven. We mortals, however, did not know. For those in the church, however, Calvin reasoned that we might have some assurance of our own individual status because we could experience the Holy Spirit at work within us. Believing in the grace of God, our faith was secure and we could express our thanks to God by the way we lived. To my surprise, I realized that the very popular book, *The Shack*, described in last month's *Communicator*, uses this version of Calvin's understanding of predestination. Yet, Jane continued, there is a darker edge to Calvin's thought that presents problems even to those who respect him. Salvation was not for all. God chose some to be damned. Even Presbyterians in revisions to the Westminster Confession have sought to soften that darker view.

For Jane the most important aspect of Calvin's influence today is his emphasis on making "the reign of God [on earth] visible." For Calvin that meant that the elect should encourage the world to become more like the kingdom of God, becoming living examples of equality, love, mutual respect, and mutual accountability. This attitude underpinned the notion of the "common good," an essential part of 18th century American politics. In Geneva Calvin created a church structure based upon these concepts. He championed social justice, called for a living wage for all and preached that God would condemn those who

exploited workers. Central to his efforts was the recognition that the image of God exists in every human being, Christian or not, no matter how degraded. That recognition lays an ethical claim on all of us. "You cannot despise your own flesh," Calvin declared.

When I asked Jane how her "long affair" with Calvin had influenced her understanding of God, she answered by combining Calvin with many other significant experiences of her life among Reformed people, from a seminal post-college year in Geneva which included working in France with CIMADE, a group dedicated to helping refugees and impoverished people, through her fourteen years of service on the Executive Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, seven of which she served as their first woman president. From these experiences she derived a remarkably vivid sense of our interdependence. "I am more and more conscious," Jane said in words that echo Calvin, "that God's message is that of a loving parent Creator whose will for us is good, is life. But God lays upon us the responsibility to use our tools to see that **everyone** has life."

~Dick Johnson





You Can Make a Difference for Church Visitors!

Each Sunday a dozen or more visitors worship with us. Will those visitors become part of our community? That depends. Even more than the sermon or the music, a visitor's impression of the church comes mostly through the welcome they receive from each of us from the moment they walk in the door. Below are some tips for becoming more aware of how your response to visitors can make a difference.

1. Understand the mind of a guest.

They want to be welcomed. They want to observe our church service and be provided an easy opening if they choose to come again. Most of all, they don't want to be pressured.

2. Welcome everyone.

Not only newcomers need a warm welcome: long-time members also need to know they are loved and valued. Develop a good handshake. Be enthusiastic - about the day, the worship that is about to take place, about creating Christian community.

3. Anticipate the newcomers.

When people enter the door that you do not recognize, approach them by saying something like, "We're glad to have you here today. I don't recall meeting you before." Avoid "Is this your first time?" You might embarrass yourself or offend a regular attender.

4. Help newcomers connect.

While you are getting to know them, introduce guests to another regular attender who walks in and suggest they sit together, or feel free to invite first time visitors to sit with you.

5. Say goodbye with warmth.

After the service, bid farewell to visitors, inviting them to return next week. Ask them if they have any questions. Introduce them to other members and to the pastor. After visitors are gone you can focus on visiting with friends.

6. Avoid Church Business.

Avoid using pre or post service activities to conduct church business that could be done over the phone or by e-mail during the week. Focus on welcoming visitors and showing hospitality to all.

Session Digest

In its April meeting, the Session:

- Was led in meditation and prayer by Elder Roger Denton, who encouraged thankfulness for friends and willingness to share of our bounty.
- Heard a full report of Sarah Green's ministry of collaboration with Emmanuel Presbyterian, and of the committee she formed to plan the ongoing relationship with that congregation.
- Approved a special offering in June to support the CPC music program and the Claremont High music department, and approved support of VBS and CLASP from the Pentecost Offering.

~ Steve Sittig
Clerk of Session

Blood Drive Thank You

I would like to say thank you to all who donated blood at our recent Blood Drive on May 15. There were thirty-two people who came to donate the "gift of life" and twenty-nine units of blood were obtained. You will be blessed greatly by those who will receive your gift. Thank you for your generosity.


Thanks so much also to those who volunteered their time in helping staff our registration and canteen tables, as well as signing up people to donate. I am greatly appreciative to the following persons who gave their assistance to help in a most successful Blood Drive: to Suzanne Brown and Ruben Diaz who helped in signing up donors; to Pat Beswick, Susan Brinkama, Gail Duggan, Elsie Harber, Jane MacLeod and Dawn Swarhout, many thanks for your "labor of love" on the day of the drive. I am most grateful to all of you for your willingness to help in this loving way.

~ Ruth Auld

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 deadline for submission to the summer newsletter is June 15.** Anything you would like the congregation to know about in July or August should be included in that issue. You may email your submission to Jo Colclough at jcolclough@claremontpres.org. If email is not convenient for you, you may also deliver your article or notice to the Church office by June 15.

Thank you!



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



A Musical Tribute of Thanks - Saturday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m.



Kathryn (Katy) Lillich
Voice and Harp

Kathryn Lillich has been attending Claremont Presbyterian Church since the age of five where she has participated in Sunday School, LOGOS and every possible musical venue offered by CPC. Kathryn graduates from Claremont High School this June and will be studying Music Education at Luther College in Iowa. She has invited her friend, Carolyn Jackson to join her in a musical program to thank all of the people of CPC and the teachers at Claremont High School who have offered their support through teaching, guidance, and words of appreciation. The concert will consist of folk, sacred and operatic music like *Scarborough Faire*, *Give Me Your Hand*, *Blow Ye the Trumpet*, *The Water Is Wide*, *Vissi d'arte* and "Flower Duel" from *Lakme*.



Carolyn Jackson
Voice and Flute

A freewill offering will be received to benefit the CPC Sanctuary Choir and the Claremont High School Choral program. Bring your friends to hear beautiful music in a tribute to you, the people of Claremont Presbyterian Church.

Second Annual Bequest Emphasis Sunday

The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee is pleased to announce CPC's second annual Bequest Emphasis Sunday, to take place on June 21.



During the service on that day, a presentation will be given to illustrate the importance of making special gifts to CPC, over and above our annual pledges for the operating budget. These special gifts can be made during lifetime or through our estates and can direct support to a particular part of the Church's program and outreach or can be left unrestricted. In either case, such gifts further

enrich our spiritual life here at CPC and our ministry to a needy world.

At the service on June 21, we will recognize the twenty-six people who, to date, constitute the members of our Loaves and Fishes Society. This is the bequest society of CPC and is sponsored by the Special Gifts and Endowment Committee.

The Loaves and Fishes Society draws its inspiration from John 6:9, the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to sustain the multitudes. Everyone who includes CPC in his or her estate plan is entitled to membership in the Society.

If you have taken this important step and have not yet notified us, please inform one of the Pastors, any member of the Committee, or Jo Colclough in the Church office – we want to add you to our membership rolls! For more information, please pick up a copy of our Loaves and Fishes Society brochure on the patio on Sunday morning or in the Church office. The brochure provides the names of the Committee members.

There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many?

~John 6:9

The current members of the Loaves and Fishes Society are:

Eric Bernal	Teresa Bernal	Harry Brunger	Gordon Douglass
Jane Douglass	Joan Harlan	Lee Harlan	Frank Hungerford
Chet Jaeger	Eileen Jaeger	Delores Kelley	Jeanne Kennedy
Taylor Klingerman	Ruth Mickel	Kathleen Sigtenhorst	Pieter Sigtenhorst
Betty Springer	Stan Springer	Marjorie Stoddard	Libbie Swartz
Roger Swartz	Kent Warner	Teddie Warner	Mary Wheeler
Dorothy Whitham	Rick Whitham		

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

Graduate Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 7 we will honor all graduates in worship, with a special emphasis on our high school graduates. If you or a loved one is graduating from high school or receiving an undergraduate or graduate degree, please let the church office know.

Save the Date!

- July 6 - 10 Vacation Bible School
- July 12 Church Picnic
- August 1 - 8 PYG Work Project
- August 23 Backpack Sunday

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 04/30/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$166,611	\$181,667
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	38,706	22,833
Expenses	(201,712)	(217,593)
VARIANCE	3,605	(13,093)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 04/30/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$191,397	207,957
Expenses	(194,546)	(214,382)
VARIANCE	(3,149)	(6,425)

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.

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