



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

March 2009



## CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, March 1 10:00 a.m.  
*First Sunday in Lent*  
The Women with the Alabaster Jar  
Mark 14:1-9  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 8 10:00 a.m.  
*Second Sunday in Lent*  
Judas  
Mark 14:10-11, 32-45  
The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday, March 15 10:00 a.m.  
*Third Sunday in Lent*  
Peter  
Mark 14:26-31, 53-72  
The Rev. David Lutz preaching

Sunday, March 22 10:00 a.m.  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
Pilate  
Mark 15:1-15  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 29 10:00 a.m.  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Simon of Cyrene  
Mark 15:16-23  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

## Fellow Travelers: People We Meet on the Way to the Cross

One of the most memorable things about any journey is the people you meet along the way. That is particularly true of the journey to the cross we make each year during Lent. As we travel this road through the stories in the gospel, we meet the people that Jesus meets: people who reach out in faith, people who back away in fear, people who show great courage and great weakness. Each one has something to teach us about the meaning, the cost and the joy of following Jesus.

This Lent each of the Sundays in worship will focus on the story of one of these Fellow Travelers, one of the people we meet on the way to the cross. We will begin the first Sunday of Lent with the Woman with the Alabaster Jar. As the weeks of Lent continue we will encounter Judas, Peter, Pilate, Simon of Cyrene and finally the women who gather at the cross itself.

Another way to meet people making this journey to the cross is by joining one of the Lenten groups currently forming. There is more information about these groups in this newsletter. Most of these groups will be open to receiving new participants throughout the Lenten season.

Let us join our hearts in hope and prayer and set out down the road together.

*Karen Sapio*

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and the Pastor Nominating Committee invite you to a reception to celebrate the anniversaries of the arrival of Rocky (one year) and Karen (three years), along with their wonderful families. We will gather after worship on Sunday, March 1.



# Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

## Cultivating Contentment

Chapel

*More* [noun]: An increased amount or quantity. Perhaps there is nothing more influential in modern life than *more*, that noun that exercises its influence chiefly through its absence. We want more, we feel we need more, because what we have appears insufficient. We don't have enough (insert object here: time, money, faith, space, virtue, backbone. . .); we need more. When is enough enough? What's the difference between being content and settling? Join this Lenten group to listen to the wisdom of Scripture and the Christian tradition regarding contentment and to begin to carve out a path from here to there. Rocky Supinger will lead.



## Coffee and a Good Book

Fellowship Hall

*Will the Circle Be Unbroken: Reflections on Death, Rebirth and the Hunger for Faith* by Studs Terkel  
David Menefee-Libey and Dick Johnson will lead discussion on the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's last book. In it this master of oral history recorded the reflections of "people both esteemed and unknown...wise words, meaningful memories, and compassionate predictions about the experience of life's end – and what may be beyond."

## Café y conversación

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. at Full of Life in the Claremont Village

Would you like to get to know members of Emmanuel better? Want a chance to practice your Spanish skills or help others enhance their English skills? Then come for a fun, relaxing hour of coffee, conversation, and camaraderie. No prior foreign-language experience necessary, just a desire to learn and grow by interacting with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Meditation in the Christian Tradition Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Mt. San Antonio Gardens

A Meditation group learning about and practicing meditation in the Christian tradition. Take some time this Lent to turn from business to quiet communion with God. This group uses resources from the World Community for Christian Meditation.



## Lunch at Carrows

Gather for lunch at Carrows on Foothill in Pomona **after worship on Sundays** for fellowship, conversation and a chance to meet new friends.

## Bible Study On-line

Do you want to participate in Bible Study but have a hard time making it to a weekly class? This on-line study of the weekly sermon texts will be led by Pastor Sapio in an interactive format. Log on to our website at [www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org) and look for the link to Lenten Bible Study Blog **starting February 25.**

## Additional Lenten Offerings

Call the church office at (909) 624-9693 for more information.

## Lectio Divina "Divine Reading"

Sunday afternoons 3:00 to 4:30 in the Chapel

A different way of reading, studying and discussing familiar Scripture passages. It is a way of praying with Scripture that calls one to study, ponder, listen and, finally, pray from God's Word.

## Extending Compassion

Group members will decide day and time

This is a group for those who would like to develop a caregiving ministry. The group will include a weekly Bible study and later begin calling upon members of our community in need of a compassionate visit.

## 'Tis a Gift to be Simple

Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.

The first meeting on March 1 be at CPC

As children of the modern age we recognize our lack of practical skills that got our grandparents through good times and bad. Are you interested in unlocking the secrets of canning, beekeeping, cheese-making and other forgotten arts? Join us as we revisit some of the crafts of yesteryear as a path to rebuilding community, exploring our roots, and in these uncertain economic times...acquiring skills for the future. Each week will feature Biblical study, a hands-on workshop and Christian fellowship.



## Mission Opportunities in Belize

George Trindle is often asked about participating in mission in Belize. The following work project or teaching opportunities have come to his attention. The contact person is Mark Parcher of PathLight and his email address is mparcher@pathlight.org. George would also be happy to assist anyone interested with preparation and traveling plans.

May 3 - 10, 2009 Construction Project: Playground in St. Margaret Village: In addition to a basketball court, building a playground for the school in St. Margaret Village is planned. Currently they have no play equipment at all. A small grass or gravel area with some simple playground equipment would be a great way for students to get some exercise and burn up some of that "excess" energy during their school day. This project involves clearing and grading a play area, building a border around it and erecting some playground equipment constructed of wood or metal. The exact amount and nature of the equipment will depend on the funds that the team can raise for this project.

Educational Project: Depending on the interests and skills of the volunteers, an alternative to the construction project is to provide educational workshops for children in the local primary schools. Possible programs include workshops in art, music, or computers, "sports day", science camp, etc. Depending on the content and number of volunteers the educational project would be done either in the school classrooms or at Jaguar Creek (as a field trip for the students.)

August 2 - 9, 2009 Construction Project: Classroom repair in Armenia Village: In the rural villages of Belize, almost all of the classrooms are in need of repair. By replacing or rebuilding doors and shutters, refinishing chalkboards, repairing roofs and desks, we can make a tremendous improvement to the learning environment that will impact dozens of children. Since school is not in session, we'd have full access to the classrooms during this time. Both children and their teachers will be greatly encouraged and helped when they step into their refurbished classroom in September! Note: An educational project is not possible during this August trip as the schools are not in session.

Other Dates and Opportunities: For teams of six or more people, short term mission trips can be arranged at almost any time during the year. In addition to short term mission trips, volunteer teachers can be placed alongside a Belize teacher in rural villages like Armenia and St. Margaret (3 month minimum commitment.)



Daylight Saving Time Begins  
at 2:00 a.m. on  
**Sunday, March 8.**  
Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

## From the Department of Mixed Metaphors: PYGs Fly the Coup

From Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29, CPC's high schoolers will go on retreat to Rancho La Sherpa Camp and Conference Center. This is a chance for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders to get away for two days of relaxing, eating, playing games, listening, and doing absolutely nothing. The cost for two nights and five meals is only \$100 per person, due no later than March 15. Scholarships are available by calling Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693.

## Mary Mikhael, Seminary President, to Visit Claremont

On Thursday, March 26, the President of the Near East School of Theology (NEST), Mary Mikhael, will be in Claremont, and the Mission Interpretation Commission invites you to hear her describe how God is at work through that vital mission partner of the Presbyterian Church (USA). NEST is an interdenominational protestant seminary that serves the Evangelical churches of the Middle East. Mary is a friend of CPC, as is Carol Dolezal-Ng, the seminary's Development Associate and a PC (USA) mission co-worker.

Come greet President Mikhael at the men's breakfast on the 26<sup>th</sup> at Walter's Restaurant, 7:24 am. Sharp.

## People in the Church: Eric & Teresa Bernal



And these words...  
shall be upon your heart;  
and you shall teach them  
diligently to your children...  
-Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Is parenting a spiritual journey? Author Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, speaking at CPC January 25, indicated her desire to revise these words, which appear in the title of her book. “Parenting” implies a degree of control which few parents should expect. “Journey” implies an individual act and fails to acknowledge the need for community. “Spiritual” seems too loose, ignoring the importance of having a core commitment.

It seems, then, that a revised edition of *Parenting as a Spiritual Journey* is needed, along with a new title. I nominate Eric and Teresa Bernal to write it. In their conversation with me in early January they hit all three topics – control, community, and commitment – squarely.

When they arrived in Claremont in 1989, the Bernals immediately began “church-shopping.” Their main goal was to find a church and a church family that would nurture their son, Kirk, then five years old. They found it at CPC in Joy Luscombe’s program for children, and later the LOGOS program for children and their parents developed by Sandy Tice and others. “It was a great program for the kids,” Eric said.

“And for us too!” Teresa added. “We grew. We learned.”

As Kirk grew, he learned to think of the church as his family. Tim Bovard, with some help from John Hill, mentored him through Confirmation class. While in high school he reached out to elders such as Carl Rathmann with questions about colleges, and to Scott Randles concerning career possibilities. Today Kirk is in his third year of service as a Deacon. Community and commitment are very important values to Kirk, as well as to his family.

Their story actually starts in the Philippines, where Eric and Teresa grew up. “Where did you get your strong faith?” I asked.

“From my mother, and she got it from her mother,” replied Eric. The line goes back to Eric’s grandfather, who was one of the co-founders of the first indigenous Methodist Church of the Philippines. Every Sunday young Eric attended church in his very best clothes. Every summer his mother enrolled him in Vacation Bible School, which lasted 8-5 every weekday. He learned about tithing at an early age from his parents’ example. Some people might have rebelled, but Eric relished it. “I wanted the same for my kids,” he declared.

Teresa grew up Catholic, the dominant religion in the Philippines. While she appreciated the

religion, there was something about the rituals that seemed to her too “automatic.” Her father’s relatives were members of the United Church of Christ. So when she met Eric, she was willing to explore other ways of approaching God. She learned to trust God, and God’s plans for us.

Acknowledging that “control” is something that seemingly diminishes for parents with each breath a child takes, Teresa said, “I hope Kirk and Patrick see our example, our commitment to the church. The church is our family. The children, our work, and the church pretty much make up our lives. I want the children to feel that they belong.”

To achieve their desires, Eric and Teresa required Kirk and his younger brother, Patrick, to attend church regularly and participate in one additional activity.

“Like PYGs?” I asked.

“Oh no!” replied Teresa. “PYGs is like my catechism class when I was growing up. It’s required! They go! An additional activity would be something like choir or bell choir; or attending work projects or LOGOS.”

They also encouraged the children to be involved in the outreach activities of the church. Teresa noted, “I take Patrick with me to help serve the Community Meal.”

But if the Bernals originally joined CPC to find a church family for Kirk, their commitment to CPC has both enlarged and deepened, and it shows in other ways as well. Teresa is currently a member of the Evangelism and Nurture Commission. She has served as a member of Session and the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Eric has been a Deacon, a member of Session, and he has served on two Pastor Nominating Committees. “The only way to understand the church,” they explain, “is to be involved.”

Teresa emphasizes again, “CPC has meant so much to us. We are a family. We should be there for each other.”

Eric agrees. “It’s not so much about doing ‘neighborly acts.’ It’s more about **being** good neighbors.”

With Eric’s words I recall that Biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, and how Jesus used the parable to say precisely what Eric has said to me. The story is worth repeating. A lawyer asked Jesus what was required to gain eternal life. They both agreed that the correct answer was, “*You shall love*

See **Bernal**s, next page



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) 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

## Bernal's (cont. from page 4)

*the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."*

But perhaps wanting to be sure he had fulfilled the requirement, the lawyer pressed Jesus: "And who is my neighbor?"

*Jesus answered, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. By chance a certain priest was going down that way. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he traveled, came where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion, came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, and gave them to the host, and said to him, 'Take care of him. Whatever you spend beyond that, I will repay you when I return.' Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?"*

*He said, "He who showed mercy on him."*

*Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-37.)*

Now when Jesus said, "go and do likewise," he did not mean "wait until you find someone beaten and bleeding by the roadside and then help that person." He meant "you are a neighbor to all the people you meet, even strangers. And the commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself."

Thanks to Eric and Teresa, Kirk and Patrick, for saying this – in word and deed – so well today.

*~ by Dick Johnson*

## Do You Garden?

The Church and Society Commission is eager to uncover the green-thumbs among us. We'd love to tell you why we're so eager, but to do so would be to tip our hand; that's not our style. Suffice it to say that if you have a knack for gardening, if you dig digging, if you're a sensation with carnations, you should talk to us. We just may have a super secret mission for you. Scott Randles, Nora Quinn, Lee McDonald, Claire McDonald, Stanley Springer, Rocky Supinger: these are the people to whom you should covertly disclose your love for lilies and the like. Psst! The sooner the better: this newsletter article will self-destruct in two seco – . . .

## Congo Partners On Their Way

Friends, a personal note of thanks for the wonderful welcome the CPC community offered to Bernard Kabibu and Dr. Leon Mubikayi, representatives from the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during their two week stay in Claremont last month. Their time here afforded them the opportunity to tell the IMCK story not only to this congregation, but also to the Presbyterian Church of Arcadia and the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino.

Their time wasn't only spent with churches, though. Being medical professionals, the two spoke to two separate groups of students at Western University Medical School in Pomona, as well as a gathering of doctors from the Christian Medical and Dental Society and Family Practice residents at the Pomona Valley Family Health Center. Throw in appearances at the Men's Breakfast, Fuller Theological Seminary, Sunrise Rotary, the Claremont Adult School and the Pilgrim Place World Affairs Forum, and you've got a full itinerary. And that's not to mention the evening they spent with the PYGs and PYGlets (joined by the youth of the Claremont United Methodist Church), after which the PYGs donated \$120 for four IMCK primary school scholarships.

In addition to their speaking engagements, Bernard and Leon enjoyed the hospitality of Ruth Auld, Marjorie Stoddard, Gordon and Jane Douglas, Mary Ida Gardner, and Octavio Guerrero, all of whom welcomed them into their homes for a meal. John and Brenda Hill provided them with local sight seeing and accompanied them to their speaking engagement in San Bernardino as well as to the airport. Many, many thanks to everyone who extended the hand of welcome to our friends.

Bernard and Leon have now moved on to Oregon. They will spend the next two and a half months making their way across the country, speaking about IMCK everywhere they go. Yet the bar has been set high in terms of a welcome and a hearing, and for that we should all be grateful. God invites us to join in partnership for the sake of God's mission everywhere, and a relationship with IMCK is a powerful way in which to respond to that invitation. May God go with our friends and bring us together for God's glory across a great distance



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

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

## Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who helps to regularly fill the red wheelbarrow with food and necessities for people who are in need. Special appreciation goes to Kay and Suzanne Brown for their weekly deliveries of the contents of the red wheelbarrow to the Beta Center Food Bank in Pomona. Volunteers are always needed at the Beta Center. If you would like to help, talk to Kay, or call Inland Valley Hope Partners at (909) 622-3806.

## Parking Lot Flow

The Property & Finance Commission would like to remind CPC members and friends of the traffic flow pattern in the parking lot. The south driveway on Mountain Avenue is the only entrance and is to be used as an entrance only, not as an exit. Both driveways on Santa Clara Avenue are for exit only. Signs are posted at each driveway and it is requested that for the safety of all, everyone follow the pattern, on Sundays as well as weekdays.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## 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.