



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

March 2010



Worship Plans

Sunday, March 7 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

Service of Holy Communion

John 4:7-29

The Sanctuary Choir sings "Kyrie Eleison"

by Ron Kean

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday, March 14 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Acts 2, Micah 6

The Sanctuary Choir sings "Kyrie" from

the *Requiem*

by Maurice Duruflé

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 21 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Genesis 18:1-5, Mark 2:1-12

The Sanctuary Choir sings "Kyrie" from
the *Mass in C Major* by Ludwig von Beethoven

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 28 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

The Sanctuary choirs sing "Tenzi" (Shona Kyrie)
from *Shona Mass* by Lee Kesselman and inspired
by the traditional music of Zimbabwe

The Lyric & Cherub Choirs sing

"Ride Through Jerusalem" by Michael Bedford

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

The Lent Event Is Happening

By the time you read this over a hundred members and friends of Claremont Presbyterian Church will have begun meeting in small groups to read and experience *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing*. Those who were not able to be part of a group will hear something about the ideas and themes of the book in our worship services during this season of Lent.

One of the questions the book asks us to ponder is, *What difference does it make to your life that you are a Christian?*

This can be a hard question to answer for those of us who grew up going to church and don't have a dramatic conversion story. Being a Christian and being part of a church community is so woven into our lives that it's hard to pick out that individual thread we can call "faith" or "Christian community".

So try to imagine what your life might look like if that thread was missing.

Imagine:

- You don't know any stories from the Bible and neither do your children.
- When you have a major life crisis you cannot ask for prayer because you don't know anyone who takes prayer seriously.
- You don't know the words to any hymns or spirituals.
- If someone in your family died suddenly, you would have no idea where to go or who to call to arrange a memorial service.
- You have no clue that the right-wing Christians who make the news do not represent the views of all Christians everywhere.
- You don't have the words of Isaiah, Micah or Jeremiah to inspire you when you are burnt out from battling injustice in your community.

According to the book's author, Martha Grace Reese, pondering this question is important because it helps us find reasons to share our faith and our experience of Christian community. Christians in mainline churches do not tend to share their faith because they want to "save" people from hell. Mainline Christians who do well with evangelism do well because they are clear about why faith and faith community makes a difference in their lives. Because they know what a difference it makes, they are open – dare we say it – even eager to share that with others.



Sunday Morning at Nine - Adult Education

During the Season of Lent, Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes will take a break from the usual format to allow everyone the opportunity to participate in The Lent Event small groups. Two groups are meeting on Sunday morning during the education hour. Additional groups are meeting on various days of the week and at various times.



H O L Y · W E E K



Palm Sunday, March 28

10:00 a.m. Worship at CPC
Procession with palms



Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Communion Service at CPC
The Sanctuary Choir will sing
"Kyrie" by Schubert and "Agnus Dei" by Barber

Good Friday, April 2

Community Worship Service at 2:00 p.m.
at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
830 West Bonita Avenue, Claremont



Easter Sunday, April 4

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship at CPC
Rejoice in the news of the risen Lord!
The Sanctuary Choir will feature various "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah" settings
The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received

One Great Hour of Sharing

Jesus said,
"Do you love me?...
Feed my sheep."
(John 21:16-27)

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond

with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent. This year's offering is particularly critical as Haiti works to recover from a devastating earthquake.

CPC will dedicate the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Youth at CPC

February

February saw the youth of CPC raising money for hunger. The Souper Bowl of Caring on February 7 raised over \$700 for the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona, a testament to the commitment of our students and the mission of our congregation. But beyond raising money, teenagers at CPC participated in the 30 Hour Famine on the last weekend of the month. The Famine is an initiative of World Vision that raises money for the hungry and teaches young people about the causes and consequences of hunger, globally. Participants go without food for 30 hours, 24 of which are spent together learning about hunger and actually serving. Our youth partnered with the youth of First Presbyterian Church in Pomona to pitch in at the Sova food pantry in Ontario.

March

Now March is upon us. PYGs and PYGlets will gather every Sunday in March at 7:00 p.m. Then, on Wednesday, March 31, PYGs will depart for the Vermont Square neighborhood of south Los Angeles to work with the Sierra Service Project. We'll get dirty, doing renovation work on the Vermont Square Methodist Church and nearby homes. We'll also see parts of Los Angeles that most of us have not seen before. It promises to be a challenging, fun, and exciting time of service together.

Work Trip Stock Sale

To that end, CPC members and friends can purchase stock in the experience. Youth work trips are indeed expressions of the whole church's mission, and purchasing a share of stock in the trip is a simple yet concrete way to share in that expression. Stock will be for sale on the patio after worship on Sunday, March 7 and March 14 for \$2.00 per share.

~Rocky Supinger
Associate Pastor

Sunday School

In our Sunday School class, during the period of Lent, we are learning about the events of Holy Week and Easter. Our hope is that by the time Holy Week arrives, the children will have a better understanding of the significance of the events that immediately preceded Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We began with Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, and we will culminate with the discovery of the empty tomb. During this Lenten season of preparation and reflection here are a few ideas of simple activities that you may want to do with your children at home. Your child can write or draw a prayer each week and share it with family and friends. As a family, you can share God's love with others by inviting friends over to share a meal – let the children participate in the preparation and decorations. Go for a nature walk together and look for seven things that show God's care and love for the world. Plant bulbs with your child, and help your child to understand this as an activity to symbolize new life. I am sure you can think of many other ways to help your children experience this season. Please encourage your children to share with their Sunday School classmates how they are experiencing Lent at home. We will save time in class for sharing!

~Krista Wuerz

Director of Ministry to Children and Families

June Youth Camping Trip

The youth camping trip is set for Palomar Mountain State Park June 25th - 27th. Palomar Mountain State Park features spectacular views of the Pacific, camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing (trout) in Doane Pond. Coniferous forests cover much of the 1,862 acres, in contrast to the dry lowlands surrounding the mountain. This is one of the few Southern California areas with a Sierra Nevada-like atmosphere. Youth 7th - 12th grades are invited, including both incoming 7th graders in the fall of 2010 and graduating 12th graders in the spring of 2010. Contact Scott Randles for more information or to register your participation.



**SUPPORT THE PGY
WORK TRIP!
BUY PYG STOCK
MARCH 7 & 14
\$2.00 PER SHARE**

Attention 5th and 6th graders!

CPC is having a pizza party and you are invited.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall

from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. on March 26

to do some light work for a local service project

and have some time to get to know one another by playing games and sharing a meal.

Save the date....

you will hear more about this event as the time grows closer.

People in the Church: Jong Mi Na

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice [Ps. 130]

Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. [Ps. 69]

This too was the cry of Jong Mi Na. It happened in Korea over twenty years ago, as she endured a tragedy that even today is too painful for her to relate. Her soul was sinking. She cried out, “God, save me!”

Somehow she survived, although the scars remain. She gave credit to God. In response, Jong Mi promised to serve God. That promise led her to graduate from the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul. From there she began her own exodus, traveling in 1998 to America and Princeton Theological Seminary. She felt like a very small boat in a very large ocean. This time her soul was not sinking, but it felt like everything else was. “I was so lonely! I was so homesick! I had never before written a paper in English, or read an entire book in English.”

Jong Mi Na is now a member of Claremont Presbyterian Church, which is sponsoring her in her quest for ordination. She is also writing a dissertation under the guidance of Frank Rogers for her Ph.D. at the Claremont School of Theology. While she worships regularly at CPC, she leaves the service early in order to serve as Children’s Minister at a Korean United Methodist church in Rowland Heights.

Except for a few phone calls to home, Jong Mi studied all the time. “I was afraid that God would punish me if I didn’t.” At that time the God she knew was primarily a stern, powerful God. It was a frightening time. But God also cared. Before she wrote her papers, she would pray to God for insights. During the night, or in those half-awake moments of early morning, the insights would come.

It’s always hard for immigrants to confront the ways of a foreign culture. I suspect it must be doubly hard when it’s not simply the food you eat, or driving on the other side of the road, but something much more fundamental is challenged: your very concept of God. While opening yourself to new concepts and ideas, you must somehow avoid becoming completely confused and totally lost.

In some ways Jong Mi’s story echoes the Exodus story of the Israelites, who wandered about for forty years in the wilderness while seeking a promised land. Why did it take them so long

when a direct route might be accomplished in a matter of weeks? The rabbis explain that the wandering was necessary for the Israelites to change, to learn about God, to realize that God would stay with them, and to practice obeying God’s commandments. Jong Mi too, already twelve years in America, has encountered new ways of seeing and experiencing the God she knows. She has enlarged her understanding of God in ways that give increased meaning to her own experience.

At Princeton Jong Mi found much to appreciate in classes with James Loder, a professor of Christian Education. Loder’s class presentations, “very moving, graceful” showed Jong Mi how the divine Spirit works in and through a human spirit. It was a new experience. Many Korean Christians, Jong Mi thought, wanted to rise to God and leave the world behind, but Loder talked about transformation in this world. A website describes Loder as

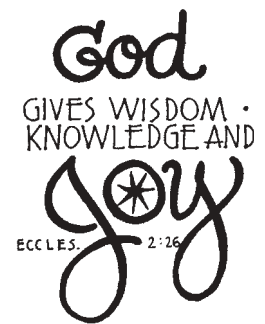
“... a Christian scholar who wanted to bring the rich resources of the Christian faith, including Scripture and the sacraments, into a healing and transforming relationship with the brokenness of human lives, the increasing fragmentation of society, and the deepening depersonalization implicit in modern culture.”

And while many Koreans saw Christianity standing apart from a sinful world (“Christ against culture”), Professor Douglas Ottati at Union Theological Seminary helped Jong Mi to see God at work *in* the world. While these were new and challenging concepts, they also seemed to reflect Jong Mi’s own experience. More challenges awaited her.

In 2000 Jong Mi received a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Princeton Theological Seminary. She gained a Master’s in Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia in 2003. Then she enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Claremont.

At the Claremont School of Theology Jong Mi encountered Process Theology for the first time. “It hit me hard,” she admitted. While her previous studies had encouraged a Christ-centered neo-orthodox belief, process theology seemed to her to have a “weak Christology” that relegated God to being a “lure” while humans were free to choose. Perhaps, she thought, it was a reflection of the “American independent spirit.” Which is

(see **Jong Mi** on page 6)



Conscientious Projector

Conscientious Projector, sponsored by Progressive Christians Uniting, 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!

The third Wednesday of each month Conscientious Projector meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street in Claremont. The film *At the Death House Door*, directed by Peter Gilbert and Steve James, will be screened Wednesday, March 17.

This film is an investigation of the wrongful death of Carlos DeLuna, who was executed in Texas on December 7, 1989, after prosecutors ignored evidence inculcating a man, who bragged to friends about committing the crimes of which DeLuna was convicted.



Jong Mi (cont. from page 5)

right, she wondered. Is there “God’s will,” or is the final decision up to humans? Jong Mi believed that there is God’s will, yet looking at her own experience, including the times when she thought God’s answer to her own prayers was “Jong Mi, you choose,” she felt forced to acknowledge that both seemed to have an element of truth.

At CST Jong Mi also encountered feminist theology. It was a revelation. “It gave me a framework and words to describe God. Years ago when I was deeply suffering I felt that God held me like a mother’s arms cradling a child, but no one had ever pointed out to me the many Biblical passages where God’s actions seem feminine in character.” In Frank Rogers’ classes at CST on spiritual formation, she has become more comfortable with the notion that God can be very near and very intimate.

Jong Mi has passed her exams for ordination. In March she will have an interview to see if she will be certified. Eventually she will achieve the Ph.D. as well. What then? She sees the possibility of being a church Director of Christian Education, or a seminary professor, or some combination of the two. It may be in America, or it may be in Korea, where her brother is a pastor. Will God decide for her, or will God say, “Jong Mi, you choose”? Of one thing she is sure: that God will continue to be with her.

~ Dick Johnson

The Great Escape Weekend Memorial Day Weekend May 29-31!



Join family and friends from CPC for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation in the Santa Ynez Mountains at the beautiful Rancho La Sherpa Conference Center. Just a two-hour drive up the coast, the conference center is located 15 miles north of Santa Barbara in the Los Padres National Forest, overlooking the Channel Islands and the Central Coast. The grounds are large and inviting and offer many things to do, or not. The cabins are comfy and warm and easily accessible. The food is prepared for you, and you are welcome to spend time as you wish. There is a High Ropes course that is available for an additional fee, if you wish to challenge yourself physically.

The cost is \$133.50 a person (\$9 less for kids ages 4-9 and those under 3 are free.) This includes 2 nights lodging and six meals. We are accepting payments between now and May. There is limited scholarship money available.

We have eight families signed up for the weekend. Please consider coming too!

Visit the website for more information:

<http://www.pccci.org>

Questions? Contact Shelley Randles.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 01/31/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$47,352	\$43,750
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	6,968	6,183
Expenses	(43,764)	(52,548)
VARIANCE	10,556	(2,615)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 01/31/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$32,752	36,521
Expenses	(31,015)	(41,029)
VARIANCE	1,737	(4,508)

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

March 5 - World Day of Prayer

The first Friday in March of every year is World Day of Prayer. This year's World Day of Prayer Service was written by women from the Cameroon. It is entitled "Let Everything that has Breath, Praise God". This Celebration will be held at Claremont Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 5, 2010 in Fellowship Hall with refreshments served at 9:30 a.m. and the service beginning at 10:00 a.m.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe this day, the first Friday of March every year. The women of Cameroon invite us to "Africa in miniature, a country in which climate and culture are rich with diversity, and where people are bound together by a love for music, family, and faith."

Church Women United in the Foothills is the sponsor of this Celebration.

Director of Ministry to Children and Families

We are very excited to have Krista Wuertz joining our staff as Director of Ministries to Children and Families. Krista is a Ph.D. student in Spiritual Care and Counseling at Claremont School of Theology. She has worked previously as an elementary school teacher in the San Francisco Bay area, as a ministry intern at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, and on the staff of a Mental Health Center in Montrose, Colorado. She also experienced a two-month international ministry internship in Boscobel, Jamaica.

At CPC Krista will be overseeing our Sunday School and Sunday morning nursery care, developing ministries with families, planning special events such as VBS and the Advent Workshop, and working closely with our Children's Music staff to create a variety of ways for children and their families to grow in their love for God and in community with one another.

Krista is eager to get acquainted with our church family, so introduce yourself!

Charity Rummage Sale

Inland Valley Hope Partners is sponsoring a big charity rummage sale for the Family Thanksgiving Dinner Committee. The sale will be Saturday, March 27 from 6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 28 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Sova Food Pantry, 904 East California Street, Ontario. If you have items to donate, you can drop them off at Sova Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Church Work Party March 27 - Save the Date!

Work: (noun), the result of exertion, labor, or activity;

Work: (verb), to do work; labor;

Work: as used in Theology: righteous deeds;

Party: (noun) a social gathering, as of invited guests; a group gathered for a special purpose or task

Party: (verb) to enjoy oneself thoroughly and without restraint.

The members of the Property and Finance Committee cordially extend to you an invitation to a Church Work Party on March 27, 2010. Please come and enjoy yourself thoroughly and without restraint, while accomplishing righteous deeds as the result of exertion, labor or activity.

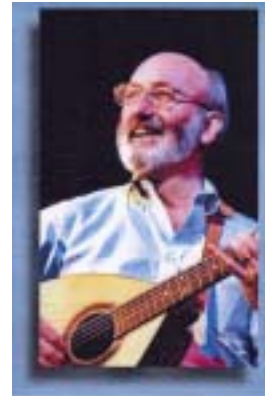
Surprise yourself. Discover how good it feels to simply do it. To fix something, to trim something, to sweep or organize, while talking and laughing with Presbyterians you didn't even know had a sense of humor. More importantly, surprise us. Surprise us with a big turn out. Please.

Paul Stookey Concert at CPC March 20

Paul – the singer-songwriter best known as "Paul" in the 60's folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary – continues to work as a solo singer and activist. He will be performing in concert on Saturday, March 20 at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Pilgrim Place invites you to "Catch the Spirit" of Pilgrim Place. All proceeds from the 7:00 p.m. concert will benefit the Pilgrim Place Health Services Center.

Pilgrim Place Health Services Center continues to improve the quality of life for those in long-term care. To accomplish this goal they seek to move away from a model of care which focuses upon an institutional life-style and provide care in an environment that feels like home.

You can help them accomplish this goal by becoming a sponsor for the concert or purchasing individual tickets. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be ordered on-line at www.pilgrimplace.org or by calling (909) 399-5511.



COMMUNICATOR



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Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: March 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 "Sermons" tab.

Save the Date!

April 1	Maundy Thursday
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter Sunday
May 29	Great Escape Weekend begins

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 at (909) 626-4067 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.