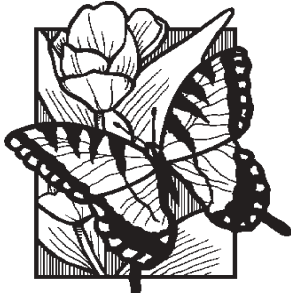




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

May 2010



M A Y

Worship Plans

Sunday, May 2 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 9 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday

Worship led by the youth of CPC

Sunday, May 16 10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 23 10:00 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday

CPC 55th Anniversary Celebration

Confirmation Sunday

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 30 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

Great Escape Weekend

Guest Preacher TBA

From the Pastor

Do you remember your favorite birthday present?

Was it the StarStreak bike you got when you were eight? The cool new transistor radio/Walkman/iPod when you were fourteen? The gold watch for your eighteenth? Did you know you were finally a grown up when you got a state-of-the-art lawnmower or vacuum cleaner and found yourself pleased rather than disgusted?

This month, on May 23, Claremont Presbyterian Church will celebrate its fifty-fifth birthday. Plans are in the works to mark that occasion with a “reverse birthday present”: a gift FROM our congregation TO two communities that have been important to us over those years.

Part of this reverse birthday present will go to the Near East School of Theology. This school in Lebanon trains pastors and lay leaders for churches throughout the Middle East. When CPC conducted a capital campaign in 1999 in order to renovate our sanctuary, we gave a portion of the funds raised to the NEST to aid them in building a gymnasium that could assist in their educational programs and outreach ministries.

The other part of our reverse birthday gift will go to the ministries of the congregation that gave birth to us fifty-five years ago. CPC was founded by members of the Pomona Presbyterian Church who lived in Claremont and wanted to have a Presbyterian congregation there. Pomona Presbyterian gave key support, both financial and organizational, in the planting of Claremont Presbyterian Church. In the five decades since then, Pomona has changed significantly. The Presbyterian Church there now strives to serve an urban neighborhood facing urban challenges and opportunities.

If you have not yet had a chance to contribute to our Reverse Birthday Gift, consider doing so now. We would like to have the donations in full by early May so that we can have checks ready to present as part of our birthday celebration during worship and coffee hour on March 23, Pentecost Sunday which is often referred to as ... The Birthday of the Church.



Sunday Morning at Nine - Adult Education

May 2, 9, 16 (Continuing from April)

Chapel

“Science and Religion”

The scientifically curious have a Sunday School outlet all their own. Pastor Rocky, Scott Randles, and a host of others explore the leading edges of discovery in cosmology, biology, physics, and more, connecting them to Christian belief and experience. Bring your questions and your convictions.



May 2, 9 (Continuing from April)

Room 1

“New Insights In Old Familiar Places - Radical Perspectives from Prophetic Biblical Texts”

You are invited to join Butch Henderson, Senior Pastor Emeritus of Claremont United Church of Christ, in sharing some surprising Eureka’s from familiar Biblical texts.

May 16

“Reflections on the Parliament of World Religions”

Parish Associate David Lutz and his wife Susan Nelson will report on their participation in the Parliament of World Religions in Australia this past November.

May 23

“What’s Coming at General Assembly”

Reports and recommendations regarding the Middle East - led by members of the Church & Society Commission.

Pentecost Offering May 23

CPC has a long tradition of generous giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the regular PC(USA) offerings that support different aspects of the life of our local, national and international church.

So, what is the Pentecost Offering? It supports ministries to children at risk, youth and young adults, and leadership development at the community level, national level and international level of our church. Forty percent of the offering will stay right here, in our own community, to help support children at risk in our area.

The Christian Education and Leadership Commission and Mission Interpretation Commission have chosen to share the local portion of this year’s Pentecost Offering with supporting two important projects:

- (1) Scholarships for Vacation Bible School, so all community children who choose to attend may do so.
- (2) Healthy snacks for the at-risk children who participate in Claremont After-School Programs, Inc. (CLASP), the tutoring program that meets at CPC and four other sites in the community.

You will be hearing about these programs during worship in May, as well as the leadership development (in which Rocky participated as a youth) that is supported by this offering.

Please bring your Pentecost Offering envelope, filled with your generous contributions, to church on May 23 – Pentecost, and we will see what the Holy Spirit has in store for all of us, including the children here in our own community.

Octavio Guerrero Set for Peru with Presbytery Team

For two weeks in May, CPC’s Octavio Guerrero will help construct the first phase of a water purification system in the mountains of Peru. Accompanied by four other members of San Gabriel Presbytery, Octavio will test water samples and begin to form relationships with local men and women who will help construct and then maintain the system. The team will meet with people in Lima, Pisac, Ayacucho, Huanta, and Macchu Picchu. The project is San Gabriel Presbytery’s first attempt to construct such a system through Living Waters for The World

(www.livingwatersfortheworld.org), a global mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Please plan to be in worship on Sunday, May 16, when we will commission Octavio to bear Christ and represent CPC through this venture.

If you would like to become involved in this ongoing project, consider participating in Clean Water University, the training event held in October at Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center in Northern California. Call Pastor Rocky for more information.



Confirmation Coming Down the Home Stretch

After four months of weekly meetings with a mentor, one foggy weekend retreat, and 10 weeks of catechism class, the 2009/2010 class of confirmands will celebrate the end of this part of their faith pilgrimage on **Sunday, May 23**. During this Pentecost service of worship, CPC will honor Dalia Ku, Ellen Blaine, Angel Ku, Jeffrey Doebler, and Caitlin McHugh for their faithfulness over the past nine months. Also, the community will have a chance to celebrate this year's confirmation mentors: Shelley Randles, Robin Owens, Stuart Lillich, Josey Saez-Acevedo, and David Cortes-Fuentes.

Join Us for VBS

Summer vacation is coming soon! Here at CPC that means Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming. We will host VBS **Monday - Friday, July 5 - 9** in the evening. Our VBS this year is called *Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*. In order to transform our church campus into the Egypt of Joseph and his brothers we are going to need the participation of the church community. Do you like working with children? Would you like to share the love of Jesus Christ with a child from the community? If so, we can use your talents to bring the rich stories of our faith to life with the children. If you would like to be involved in creating wonderful learning opportunities for the youth in our community, please contact Krista Wuertz by telephone at the church, (909) 624-9693 ext. 309 or email her at krista@claremontpres.org. Information regarding the ability to register children online through our website will be forthcoming in the near future.

Camping Opportunity for Youth Entering Grades 4-6

Do you have a child or grandchild entering the 4th, 5th or 6th grade next year? If so, there is a wonderful summer camp opportunity that you should know about. *Junior Camp* is a camp where children will have the opportunity to swim, hike, do ropes courses, archery, arts and crafts and much more. This year, *Junior Camp* will be held at **July 11-17** at Big Bear Lake and **July 25-31** at Rancho La Scherpa. Flyers about the camp will be sent to families, however you can also request one from Krista Wuertz. If you have any further questions about *Junior Camp*, please contact Krista Wuertz by telephone at (909) 624-9693 ext. 309 or by email at krista@claremontpres.org.

Youth Sunday & Work Trip Stockholders Meeting

Worship on **Sunday, May 9** will offer a special opportunity for Claremont Presbyterian Church to celebrate the gifts of our youth. As CPC's junior high and high school students lead every aspect of worship, from prayers to the Time with the Children and even the sermon, the congregation will get to experience the power of their faith and the impact of their voices.

Following worship on the 9th, make plans to stay for the Work Trip Stockholders Meeting. The meeting is open to everyone (but especially those who supported the work trip by purchasing shares of stock!) It will include a video presentation describing the work that our high school students did over their spring break in South Los Angeles.

No joke: you don't want to miss it.

Summer Youth Camping

The youth of Claremont Presbyterian Church and their friends have a whole host of camping options for the upcoming summer. Like to rough it? Then join us **June 25-27** at Palomar Mountain State Park where we'll pitch tents, roast marshmallows, and explore some seriously natural beauty. This trip is open to all youth, from those entering the 7th grade to those entering their first year of college.

Prefer a cabin and bunk? Well, junior high students can spend a fun-filled week at Big Bear Camp and Conference Center from **July 18-24**. Hike, swim, play basketball, climb a rock wall, navigate a ropes course, and meet all kinds of new friends. This is some serious fun.

High school students have a new camping opportunity this summer: L.E.A.D. Camp. L.E.A.D. is a week-long camp created for high school students who want to explore their faith at a deeper level. Participants will live in community with each other and put their faith into action by serving alongside the summer staff in day to day operations and assisting in program activities. Through small group interaction, team building and in depth Bible studies students will learn what it means to be a fully devoted disciple of Christ. You can choose one of three possible weeks: **July 11-17** or **July 18-24** at Big Bear, or **July 25-31** at Rancho La Scherpa near Santa Barbara.

Registration information will be mailed to all youth soon. If you'd like more information, call Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693 ext. 304 or email rsupinger@claremontpres.org.

Graduation Recognition

On **Sunday, June 6**, CPC will recognize the class of 2010 in worship. Please join us as we congratulate and celebrate our graduates from high school, college, and graduate school. Is someone in your family graduating? Someone connected to CPC who doesn't live in Claremont? Please let Pastor Rocky know by calling him at (909) 624-9693 ext. 304 or by emailing him at rsupinger@claremontpres.org.

People in the Church: Sacha Lord

“I don’t know why bad things happen. But I don’t think God is punishing people. God is always there – to comfort you and to rejoice with you.” Sacha Lord, a long-time member of CPC and the new Director of the Children’s Center, was reflecting on her faith journey in a life of many joys mixed with some great tragedies.

Born in Saudi Arabia of Dutch parents, Sacha spent her early years in the former Dutch colony of Aruba, where her father was a hospital physician. Sacha received no religious instruction at home. She didn’t recall her father mentioning God, and her mother seemed to be agnostic. They didn’t attend church. But the schools she attended were Christian, and there she learned “all the hymns and prayers.” The schools taught that God was very judgmental and punished sins, and Sacha acknowledged that she “took it very seriously.” She prayed every day, but not in the presence of her parents. “They pretty much didn’t know” that religion had become important to her. And for her part, Sacha had no sense of a community of faith. Her faith was personal and private, and it stayed that way until the early 1980’s, when she and her husband, Nat Lord, joined CPC.

Sacha and Nat had met in Holland, where both were attending high school. They applied to colleges in the United States, hoping to be together. When Sacha chose Scripps College in 1973, Nat chose CMC. Marriage followed. In the early 1980’s they started visiting churches. Nat really liked CPC Pastor Jim Angell, and in his wonderfully whimsical way Nat asserted that any church that had “Angells” and “Christians” and even “Masters” should also have some “Lords.” They joined in 1983, soon after their second child, Peter, was born.

CPC opened Sacha to the meaning of community. Serving on various committees, she discovered for the first time that “you could have full friendship and respect for each other and yet completely disagree.” It was a vital realization that gave her more hope for the world. Sacha also experienced for the first time what she called “the goosebump effect” – the realization that you were part of a larger body of people who, despite disagreements, shared some core common values. These were people whom you could trust to nurture your own children. Sitting in the balcony each Sunday, Sacha came to know and appreciate the ways CPC was strengthening her own faith and that of her family.

Then one of those tragedies struck. Sacha’s brother Len committed suicide. Personal problems had shattered his life and despair overwhelmed him. In the aftermath, thoughts of that punishing God invaded Sacha’s mind again. Her parents, now back in Holland, had joined a conservative church, to Sacha’s surprise. When Len died, the church there offered them no consolation, declaring instead that Len would burn forever in Hell.

CPC held a memorial service for Len, who although a local resident had neither joined nor attended the church. The compassion, caring and reassurance she received from church

members made a world of difference to Sacha. “This community, its affirmation” lifted and sustained her.

In 2002 Nat’s work took the family to Pennsylvania, although part of their heart and their sense of community remained in Claremont. They occasionally attended a Presbyterian church but never joined. Sacha’s own faith journey continued as she took up yoga and meditation. Her exploration of non-Christian paths to God taught her, she said, that around the world “we are united in the best of religion. We need the same things: care, love and joy.”

The Lord family moved again in 2007 to Granite Bay, California, near Sacramento. They had a large house in a lovely location. The children were all doing fine. Emma, the youngest, was in college. And on April 6, 2008, Nat Lord, age 52 – always active, hale and hearty, full of life and a consummate master at celebrating it – suffered a heart attack and died. It’s one of those moments that you wish with all your heart would never happen. But it does, and somehow you search for the courage to go on.

For Sacha there was no question. The memorial service would be held at CPC. With the church filled, Nat’s children and his closest friends spoke, weaving marvelous stories of the joy and love he both received and gave in his brief lifetime. Nat would have approved.

Soon Sacha made another decision. She would return to Claremont and take up her new life. It was a courageous decision. The memories of her life with Nat would be visible everywhere in the town and the church that they both had loved. It would open even wider her wounds of grief. Yet she knew that eventually her grief would subside, that she and her children would need to continue their lives, and Claremont, home of so many memories now bittersweet, would still be the best place for them.

It wasn’t easy. The church that longed to hold her and console was also the place that reminded her most of who she had been and was no longer. “I couldn’t make the switch,” she acknowledged, “from happy family to lone widow.” She avoided CPC. When she tried once to attend, at Christmas 2008, it was confusing. “I felt like an outsider.” During the next nine months she tried, once or twice, to arrive late and leave early from worship. People of the church seemed to understand and were careful not to intrude.

Then in September 2009 Sacha received a phone call. The director of the CPC Children’s Center had unexpectedly resigned. Several people had suggested Sacha. Would she help out as an interim? Sacha considered. It was a chance to use her academic training and skills and her faith to make a real contribution. It also challenged her to move her grief in a different direction. From avoiding the church, she would suddenly be there every day of the week. To the delight of the church, she accepted. In March 2010 CPC selected her to be permanent Director of the Children’s Center. CPC had become

(See **Sacha** on Page 6)



Spring Cleaning? Extra Books?

Are books weighing down your shelves? The Prison Library Project uses your used books in two ways. Some get sent to inmates all over the country, to any prison that will accept our books. Others get sold at our intriguing book stall at Farmer's Market, at our charming used book store in the Packing House, and at our wild, out of control, \$1 Clearance Book Sales several times a year at the Packing House. This is a significant source of income for the Prison Library Project. We have to pay for postage somehow.

You do not have to live with piles of books in the corners of your rooms, under your desk, hidden in closets, and packed away in boxes in your garage. Give your books the freedom they crave. Let them spread their message to new readers. Let them find new acceptance and affection. Honor the wisdom and value of your books by donating them. You have probably forgotten many of them. You don't know their names, or their stories. Now is the time to let them go. You can drop your books off at the Thoreau Book store in the Packing House, and get a receipt for your tax deductible donation, or you can say goodbye to your books by leaving them in the kitchen of the office at Claremont Presbyterian Church.



Fish Out of Water - May 19

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

The third Wednesday of each month the screening takes place at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street, Claremont. On **Wednesday, May 19** come see *Fish Out of Water*. *Fish Out of Water* uses animation and comedy as well as academic reflection to discuss seven verses from scripture that are commonly used to condemn homosexuality. Director Ky Dickens shows that the Bible is often misinterpreted, and challenges those who dismiss same sex relationships to face both their own hatred of homosexuality and to see God's unqualified love.

Sacha (cont. from Page 5)

home again, this time in a different way, one that encouraged her to grow into her new life

I interviewed Sacha last March, as we were approaching the second anniversary of Nat's death. We both felt tears come as we talked about this wonderful man, the place he held in our hearts, how much he was missed.

At that moment Sacha could have echoed the words of Robert Kennedy, who told a group on the day that Martin Luther King, Jr. died, "My favorite poet was Aeschylus. He once wrote: *Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.*"

But Sacha?

Sacha said to me, "*Life is a journey, a life of gratitude, especially when you suffer losses. Remember the gift. Remember the feast.*"

And to herself: "*Honor Nat. Honor the kids. Be thankful.*"

~ Dick Johnson

CPC Staff Email Addresses

Karen Sapio karensapio@claremontpres.org
 Rocky Supinger rsupinger@claremontpres.org
 David Lutz davidglutz@ca.rr.com
 Krista Wuertz krista@claremontpres.org
 Joan Leibeck joan@claremontpres.org
 Jenelle Westerbeck Anderson b-j-n-anderson@sbcglobal.net
 Jo Colclough jcolclough@claremontpres.org

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 03/31/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$123,286	\$131,250
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	15,779	18,550
Expenses	(156,365)	(157,645)
VARIANCE	(17,300)	(7,845)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 03/31/10	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$111,008	109,563
Expenses	(106,370)	(123,088)
VARIANCE	4,638	(13,525)

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

Parish Sunday - May 16

Some of you may ask: "What is Parish Sunday?" Simply, it's when Deacons and their parishioners spend quality time together. It's an opportunity to get to know each other better. We get so busy and into the routine of things, that sometimes we forget the importance and specialness of events – like Parish Sunday. Parish Sunday is a gathering to help us connect and foster caring relationships, and assist in deepening our faith.

In Scripture we read about the sharing of meals and its spiritual importance – another way to convey grace and truth. Today as in yesteryear, family mealtimes are not just about filling our ever growing stomachs. It's about saying "Grace" and then talking and listening to each other. Our Parish Sunday meal may be viewed this way, as well. It's centered around the food we will eat and the company we will share.

This year, your Deacons with the help of our Joan Leibeck, our wonderful Office Manager and Facilities Coordinator, are happily coordinating an all-you-can-eat salad bar and pie table. The pie table will offer seven varieties, so please come hungry!

Just look for the table with your parish number on it, and you'll find your Deacon there to welcome you!

On May 16, let's worship together and then share a meal together, to be "filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost." Acts 13:52

With love and joy in His service,
~Deacon Committee for Parish Sunday
Julie Bollman-Lee, Parish 4
Betty Butler, Parish 1
Janet Siedschlag, Parish 17
Dr. Bill Brinegar, Parish 6

The Great Escape 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 Scherpa 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

CD Players and Sermons

Do you have a small CD player gathering dust since you upgraded to an iPod? Bill Brinegar has copied sermons found on the CPC website to CD by month. The Deacons are making these CDs available to those unable to regularly attend services. For those who do not have a CD player, we hope to give new life to one you wish to donate. Please bring it to the church office.

Miss a Sunday, want to share a sermon with a friend, or want to upload sermons to your iPod to enjoy on your walk or commute? The sermon CDs are available to everyone and can be picked up in the church office.

May 7 is Friendship Day

May Friendship Day entitled *Living the Vision* will be held on Friday, May 7, 2010 at the Claremont United Church of Christ Congregational at 10:30 a.m. Our theme this year depicts how women from various denominations work together to bring transformation to their communities. Reflection will be placed on the longest personal narrative in the Bible, Nehemiah Chapters 1-7.

An article entitled "Nehemiah's Wall Uncovered" printed in the *Jerusalem Post* on November 28, 2007 will be used as discussion points for small groups.

This is a luncheon meeting with a registration of \$12.00. Please contact Carolyn Kingshill for a reservation. The Least Coin Offering for the year will be dedicated at this meeting as well as a Special Offering for Church Women United which will be divided among the local, state, and national units.

you wish to challenge yourself physically.

The cost has been reduced to \$100 per person (those under 3 are free.) This includes two nights lodging and six meals. We are accepting payments through May 2.

Visit the website for more information: www.pccci.org.

Questions? Contact Shelley Randles. In the event of cancellations, reservation might be able to be accepted after May 2 so be sure to check with Shelley if you decide at the last minute you would like to go.



COMMUNICATOR



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

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Claremont
Permit No. 131

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

Save the Date!

- | | |
|------------|--|
| June 13 | Children & Youth Musical |
| June 25-27 | Youth Camping at Palomar Mountain State Park |
| July 5 - 9 | Vacation Bible School |

Sermons on Website

Audio files of past sermons at Claremont Presbyterian Church can be found on the church website. Go to CPC's website which is www.claremontpres.org and click on the "Sermons" tab.

Thank You from CPCC

Thank you so much for helping make the April 12 fundraiser for Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center at El Rancho restaurant a success. CPCC received \$400.00 for our classrooms. We are happy that so many of you were a part of this lively event. It was a delight to see you there and to feel your support.

~ Sacha Lord,
Director of Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center

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.