



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

November 2008



## CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, November 2 10:00 a.m.  
*Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching  
Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Sunday, November 2 7:00 p.m.  
All Saints Jazz Vespers  
Kate Reid Trio

Sunday, November 9 10:00 a.m.  
*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 16 10:00 a.m.  
*Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 23 10:00 a.m.  
*Christ the King Sunday*  
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Thursday, November 27 10:00 a.m.  
*Thanksgiving Day*  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
The Rev. Mary Goshert preaching

Sunday, November 30 10:00 a.m.  
*First Sunday of Advent*  
The Rev. David Lutz preaching

## Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday

In 1965 the Philadelphia police department named the day after Thanksgiving “Black Friday”, referring to the traffic jams and crowded sidewalks their officers had to deal with as the city’s residents awoke from their Thanksgiving naps and ventured downtown en masse to begin their Christmas shopping. In time, retailers adopted this term too—only for them Black Friday referred to the day their ledgers went from red ink to black ink as Christmas shoppers made up for any losses the merchants had suffered during the first three quarters of the year.

In the last decade, employers and retailers have invented a new term: Cyber Monday. Apparently there is a huge surge in on-line sales the Monday after Thanksgiving as workers return from the long holiday weekend and use their office computers to place on-line orders for holiday gifts.

Even amid this year’s shaky economy, Americans are predicted to spend 450 billion dollars on holiday purchases. 450. Billion. Dollars. In contrast, the World Water Council estimates that the cost to make clean, safe drinking water available to everyone on the planet would be about 10 billion dollars. I’m sure you can do the math. If those who celebrate Christmas shifted just a fraction of their spending from presents to projects that address poverty, it could make a tremendous difference in the lives of millions.

This year “Black Friday” arrives just two days before the Advent begins. The choices that Christ-followers make on that day can make a difference. We can make choices that make the season of Christ’s coming “good news” to the world. Let’s do that!

# Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

## Family Issues Round Table

## Chapel

A series for families of all shapes, ages and configurations to gain insights and skills for life together. Most weeks will follow an open table discussion format.

## Jesus Doing the Kingdom of God Then and Now

## Fellowship Hall

Dr. James Robinson, one the earliest members of CPC and a Claremont resident for 50 years will be presenting the series. He is a retired professor of the Claremont Graduate University School of Religion. Dr. Robinson holds doctorates in both Contemporary Theology and New Testament and has published 277 books and articles. He has traveled and lectured all over the world.



**November 2:** From Calvin's Theology to Jesus' Preaching. An autobiographical account tracing the progression of faith from belief in doctrines to trust in God to reign in his experience.

**November 9:** Jesus Doing God's Reign in Galilee. For Jesus, the kingdom of God was not just something in heaven, or in the distant future, but, most of all, something that happened in his 'public ministry' in Galilee. It is his sayings about the 'kingdom of God,' God reigning, that explain what he was doing.

**November 16:** Translating God's Reign into Today's Secular Language. We are all familiar with Jesus described in the language of antiquity that we find in the Gospels. But Presbyterians do not usually think we can do literally what he did, and what he sent out his disciples to do, since we tend to avoid such fringe movements of today as faith healing, exorcism, and speaking in tongues. But that does not mean we should not do the reign of God. Instead, we should carry through a basic translation, out of antiquity's mythological language into our modern secular language, to see what its equivalent would be today, so that we can get at doing it here and now. Let God's reign happen how!

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## Jazz Vesper Service November 2

A special worship service celebrating the saints whose lives have touched ours will be held Sunday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the CPC Sanctuary. It will feature Kate Reid's jazz piano and vocals.

November 1 and 2 have long been days set apart by Christians to remember those who have died. Called All Saints Day in Europe and Dia de los Muertos in Latin American countries, these days have been times when people gather to remember loved ones and honor those whose lives were particularly inspiring examples of living the Good News of Jesus.

This special evening vespers service will move us through remembrance to thanksgiving to hope of eternity. Make plans now to participate in this unique time of memories and celebration.

## Advent Workshop Coming

The holidays are on the way and so is the Advent Workshop. It's scheduled for Sunday, November 30 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and is a fun and meaningful event for the entire church family. If you would like to provide a craft or help in any way, please contact Susan Townzen

## Confirmation

If you should see Maran Townzen in the music room practicing bells, ask her how she's finding the Gospel of Mark. If Adam Cave bumps into you on the patio after worship, tell him you're praying for him. If you walk past the PYG Room on Sunday morning during the 9:00 hour, stick your head in and prod Nell Menefee-Libey or Margaret Woodcock to tell you about a community issue they're engaging. And as you come across their mentors – Jim Butler, Barbara Stout, Jeanine Robertson, Harry Brunger – extend your encouragement to them as well.

From now until February, these confirmands and their mentors are meeting weekly to pray, read Mark, and learn about what God is doing in the world around them, around us. It's a commitment to explore faith together for the sake of hearing God's call to claim it for ourselves, whether for the first time or the fiftieth. I can tell it's exciting. I know it will be challenging, even frightening. And so it must be. The good news is that Nell and Jeanine, Adam and Jim, Mara and Barbara, Margaret and Harry, are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have just as much riding on confirmation as do its participants.

May God go with them, and with all of us.

~Pastor Rocky



## Presbyterian Youth Group (PYGs)

We gathered around the table—high school students, adults, junior high students, CPC, Emmanuel—and dramatized the Acts story of Peter and Cornelius, the one in which the Holy Spirit orchestrates a sort of backroom meeting between Peter, the Apostle, and an Italian envoy sent by a Centurion, and Jesus' right hand man is dumbfounded by inexcusable actions of the Spirit. "What God has called 'clean' you shall not call 'unclean.'" Then we offered a blessing from Psalm 117: "Praise the Lord, all you nations/ Extol him, all you peoples!/ For great is his steadfast love toward us,/ and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever./ Praise the Lord!"

The food was brought: lasagnas, ham, salads, fruit, Panda Express Orange Chicken, bread. Glasses of sparkling cider were raised, and a feast ensued. Young people from different schools and different churches sat next to one another and passed each other dishes. "Some ham?" Adults shuffled nervously around, lowering steaming piles of lasagna onto bright paper plates, yellow, green, and red, before eventually taking a seat to join in the festivity of friends who moments ago, in some cases, were strangers.

The idea here is an experience of World Communion on a day when the church talks about unity and one-ness in Christ but on which none of the things that keep people apart the rest of the time are much changed. We hoped to put our

foot in the door, then, and see if such a small experience of communion in faith could be had with a simple postcard invitation and whatever people saw fit to bring. I don't think our hope disappointed us.

The idea behind Walk for The Hungry, seven days later, is similar: get people of faith together to experience the big God-given unity in feeding people who are hungry. The Inland Valley Hope Partners (who sponsor the walk) is still counting donations, but within a few days of the event the tally was 62 thousand dollars, almost 10 percent of which was raised by youth.

We've just begun walking through the year together. For some, this is the last time around, and they're struggling to embrace these days while eagerly looking forward to the next ones. The church is walking with them, and with those for whom this is the first time around and those somewhere in between. We're walking—and celebrating and struggling—with all of them, and they with us. There are fixed points along our route: caroling at Christmas, Youth Sunday, a mission trip to Mexico the first week in August. The rest of the trek, perhaps, is known only to God, for whose guidance we pray and whose purposes we seek and whose grace we claim.

Amen.

~Pastor Rocky



## Thanksgiving Food Donations

For many years the St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, with the help of many other congregations and organizations, has fed the homeless on Thanksgiving Day and offered a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at the church for various congregations and neighbors.

Many people show up to help serve on that day; however the greatest need is always for donations of specific food and of course extra funds are welcome. If you would like to donate food they are asking for pies, store bought or homemade (check that the store bought are precooked) and turkey which has been cooked, carved, sealed in Ziploc bags and then frozen (so you can prepare it in advance!) The pies and cooked frozen turkey should be taken to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, at 830 West Bonita in Claremont. The telephone number is (909) 626-7170. You can drop the food off in the CPC kitchen the Sunday or Wednesday before

Thanksgiving (November 23 or November 26 before 3:00 p.m.) and a deacon will take it to St. Ambrose for you.

Look for your deacons with sign-up sheets on the patio after worship in November. The deacons will be pre-registering any food donations and receiving monetary donations.



Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 2. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 1.

## Adopt-A-Family

For several years the Deacons have sponsored the Adopt-A-Family program and each year the CPC congregation has responded with generous support. This year, following the tradition, there will be six Claremont families who have been identified and adopted by the Deacons. The congregation has the opportunity to share their Christmas spirit with these families by choosing a gift tag or tags from the Christmas tree which will be on the patio after church on November 30 and December 7. Each tag will have the gender, age, size and gift request for a member of one of the families. Purchase the gift or gift card requested, wrap it, attach the gift tag to the gift and bring it to the Narthex on Sunday, December 7 or December 14 or to the church office any day up to December 16. The gifts will be delivered by Deacons the following week. If you are unable to shop or if you prefer, monetary donations will also be accepted.

## November Cinema

In Thanksgiving for family and community the film for our November Saturday Cinema will celebrate both. *Akeelah and the Bee* is the story of an eleven year old girl from South Los Angeles who overcomes tremendous odds to compete in the National Scripps Spelling Competition. Join us on Saturday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner and mini spelling bee. The film will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## Faith in the Wilderness

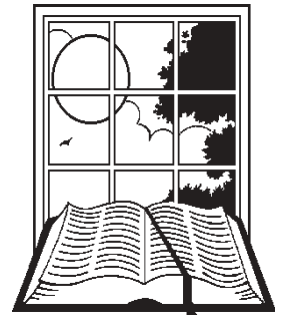
Progressive Christians Uniting (PCU) and the San Gabriel Mountains Natural Heritage Campaign are sponsoring a special gathering on Saturday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. at CPC. Faith and environmental justice confront us with a wide array of problems - and sometimes it's not easy to see how they connect together, or connect with our identity and commitment as Christians. Dr. John Cobb, co-founder of PCU and internationally known theologian, was one of the first major Christian writers on ecological sustainability and responsibility. He will guide us in a conversation about the relationship between faith, environmental justice, and the preservation of wild spaces. We'll also be joined by Juana Torres, of the Sierra Club, who helps connect churches and non-traditional environmentalist groups to the Los Angeles area wilderness.

## Read Ahead!

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri is the book selected for the Presbyterian Women's Annual Book Review/Luncheon on Saturday, February 21, 2009. Over coffee at Barnes and Noble, sifting through thick files compiled by Elaine Walker, Elaine and Elsie Harber arrived at the choice of this book. At this point, we have, over the years, explored writers as diverse as Barbara Kingsolver, Louise Erdrich, Gail Godwin, Toni Morrison, Sena Jeter Naslund, Jan Karon, Anne Tyler and Sandra Cisneros. Our criteria have consistently been: a woman writer, a culture to be explored and a faith dimension - religious, spiritual, ethical. The fact that Jhumpa Lahiri is also the winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (for a short story collection) also weighs in the decision.

With *The Namesake* we are exploring Bengali-American (Indian) culture over three decades of a family, a story of exile and identity. Lahiri says, "...it's a classic case of divided identity...My parents were fearful and suspicious of America and American culture when I was growing up. Maintaining ties to India and preserving Indian traditions in America meant a lot to them...On the other hand India was largely a mystery to Americans as well...As a young child, I felt that the Indian part of me was unacknowledged, and therefore somehow negated by my American environment, and vice versa. I felt that I led two very separate lives."

*The Namesake* is also a highly acclaimed 2007 film available on DVD. The book is available in paperback from Barnes and Noble for \$14.00 and from Amazon.com for \$10.00.



### CPC Women's Retreat

Save the Date!

Claremont Presbyterian Church  
Women's Retreat

Saturday, January 17, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at

San Marino Community Church  
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nordquist  
keynote speaker

## Community Thanksgiving Service at CPC

CPC is delighted to host Claremont's Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service this year on Thursday, November 27 at 10:00 a.m. This annual celebration will include a combined choir from many congregations and Thanksgiving greetings from the mayor. Our preacher this year is the Rev. Mary Goshert, Rector of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church. Plan to make this part of your Thanksgiving Day.



## Church Women United

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. The local chapter of Church Women United will celebrate World Community Day on Friday, November 7 at the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church at 710 Hamilton Avenue in Pomona. World Community Day is celebrated on or near the first Friday in November, and focuses on justice and peace in the global society. Themes are chosen by the Ecumenical Celebrations Committee and seek to relate the themes to issues of justice and peace in the United States. Since 2004, every other year is written as a service appropriate for Interfaith participation, providing the opportunity to reach out to our Jewish, Muslim, and other sisters. This is also a time when many units choose to engage in in-depth study of global issues related to the theme. The offering is sent to the national office of CWU for support of the movement.

## A Way to Save Resources

Many members and friends of Claremont Presbyterian Church receive the monthly *Communicator* electronically and read it on their computer. This is a great way to save paper. If you would like to join the group it couldn't be easier. Just email your request to Jo Colclough at [jcolclough@claremontpres.org](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) and next month you will be among the paper-free.

## Financial Highlights


CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 09/30/08	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$389,551	\$412,500
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	49,234	60,600
Expenses	(466,553)	(490,826)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>(27,768)</b>	<b>(17,726)</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 09/30/08	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$458,518	\$482,626
Expenses	(409,806)	(471,026)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>48,711</b>	<b>11,600</b>

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

## Thank You, Volunteers

A loyal group of CPC volunteers help out in the office each week. Some have specialized responsibilities, such as Mary Anne Blaine who carefully keeps track of the CPC membership rolls. Dorothy Bogosian covers the phones and office during Wednesday staff meeting, and Barbara Patch and Teddie Warner, who are the Friday folders of the bulletins. All of them answer the phones, help with mailings, greet visitors and take care of a variety of odd jobs, thus relieving some of the burden of our dedicated staff. Please show your appreciation to these CPC office volunteers: Pat Beswick, Mary Anne Blaine, Dorothy Bogosian, Maria Chang, Jane Glenn, Matt McDonald, Barbara Patch and Teddie Warner.

If you might like to help in the office, regularly or occasionally, please contact the CPC Office Manager Joan Lebeck at (909) 624-9693.



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**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

# Free Performina Arts Serices 2008/2009

WELCOMES BACK

# BonesWest

Directed by Peter Fournier

**Saturday November 15 7:00 p.m.**



A dynamic trombone band consisting of about thirty performers including: trombonists, rhythm-section, vocalist and conductor. The Big Band sounds were first brought to CPC in February 2007 to remember Bill Bentley who had been a beloved member of the group.

BonesWest was founded in 1980 by Hollywood studio bass-trombonist George Roberts. It is the realization of his dream to have a trombone choir playing in a big band style, open to all who love and play the trombone. The unique gathering of students, community players and professional musicians give BonesWest its unusual appearance and distinct quality of sounds. Under the leadership of President Len Wicks and Musical Director Peter Fournier, BonesWest continues to be an active fellowship and a wonderful musical experience for all who hear them. Their library features the custom arrangements of Harry Betts, Bob Olsen, Tommy Dorsey, Charles LaRue, Frank Comstock and others.

BonesWest performs at community events such as senior centers and fundraisers as well as school jazz festivals and summer park concerts. The group performs yearly at the Orange County Fair and the National Association of Music Merchants Convention. In 2006, BonesWest toured New York concluding with a command performance at Carnegie Hall. Just a few weeks before our performance, BonesWest will be appearing in Las Vegas.

Don't miss this performance! BonesWest has a wonderful sound and plays music you will love!

## Coming this Season:

JACK SANDERS	GUITAR AND VIHUELA	February 7, 2009	7:00 p.m.
GOSPEL CHOIR	from Azusa Pacific University	March 14, 2009	7:00 p.m.
JAZZ BAND	from Claremont High School	May 09, 2009	7:00 p.m.

~Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee

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

## Thanksgiving Sunday November 23

Just as families re-gather at Thanksgiving, CPC will celebrate the Sunday before Thanksgiving as Homecoming Sunday. Take this opportunity to invite friends and family members who have been part of our church over the years to join in a special worship service including music from the youth and children's choirs, Thanksgiving hymns, and an "extended coffee hour" with plenty of time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

## Save the Date!

- December 7 - Alternative Christmas Gift Market
- December 14 - Christmas Breakfast prior to morning worship  
Christmas Pageant during morning worship
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5:00 & 11:00 p.m.
- January 17, 2009 - Women's Retreat

## 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.