



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

November 2009



CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, November 1 10:00 a.m.

All Saints Day

Service of Holy Communion

Preaching Through the Bible:

“The Influence of Paul”

Acts 9:1-19; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 1 7:00 p.m.

All Saints Jazz Vespers

Sunday, November 8 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible:

“The Influence of Paul”

Galatians 3

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 15 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible:

“The Influence of Paul”

Romans 8

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday, November 22 10:00 a.m.

Christ the King

Preaching Through the Bible:

“What Happens in the End?”

Revelation 19

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 29 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Preaching through the Bible

“What Happens in the End?”

Revelation 20

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Stewardship 2010: Where is Your Heart?

*For where your treasure is, there
your heart will be also.*

~Matthew 6:21

Claremont Presbyterian Church is a veritable treasure trove of people passionate about ministry and stewardship. Every time we gather, we meet friends who are putting their whole hearts into sharing God’s love in ways that fit their particular talents and passions. Some have a heart for tutoring school kids, some have a heart for those in prison, some have a heart for praising God through music, some have a heart for healthcare for all, some have a heart for feeding hungry neighbors, some have a heart for encouraging earth friendly practices for homes and communities. Whether we are gathered in the Sanctuary on Sunday or dispersed throughout the greater L.A. metropolitan area during the week, people see our hearts. In a year that has seen a global financial recession it is a joy to see the network of compassion that has its heart in the family of Christ at CPC.

Stewardship for 2010 means recognizing that network of stewardship. We celebrate the myriad ways that members of CPC follow their hearts into active demonstrations of their stewardship. One of these ways is your continued generous financial support for the ministries of our congregation. As we make financial stewardship pledges for the first year of a brand new decade, we show that we have a heart for the future, a heart full of faith that God is leading us to ever greater demonstrations of the love and justice of Christ.

We seek God’s vision for our congregation as a new decade dawns. To help all of us keep that future in view, we invite you to use the number “2010” as a guide when considering your pledge to CPC for the coming year. To give us the resources to match our vision we invite you to consider the following options:

Increase your pledge by 201.0/ month for an annual total increase \$2412.00

Increase your pledge by 20.10/month for an annual total increase of 241.20

Increase your pledge by 2.010/month for an annual total increase of 24.12

Of course many will find they can give more, less or another amount more appropriate for their own stewardship goals. We celebrate the generous hearts at CPC as we work together in Christ’s name.

Karen Sapio
Pastor

Judy Conibear Kohnen
Stewardship Committee Chair

Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship

Each year the Claremont Interfaith Council sponsors a community Thanksgiving worship service. Faith communities within the council take turns hosting the event. This year the service will be held Wednesday evening, November 25. Gather together at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Avenue in Pomona at 7:00 p.m. All faiths and denominations are welcome.

Sunday Morning at Nine - Adult Education

All classes begin at 9:00 a.m.

Biblical Exploration

Room 1

“Introduction to the Study of the Gospels and Paul”

Rev. David Cortés-Fuentes, Ph.D. will continue his nine week series which began in October.

- November 1:** The Gospel According to John
- November 8:** An introduction to the study of Paul
- November 15:** Letters in the Greco-Roman world and the letters of Paul
- November 22:** The Letter to the Galatians
- November 29: No Class over Thanksgiving week-end
- December 6:** The Letter to the Romans



“Ending US-sponsored Torture Forever: A Study for People of Faith.”

Chapel

Gail Duggan, discussion facilitator

November 1

The second of a two-session class using a DVD to focus the discussions. This new DVD is produced by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. This study is designed to help people of faith consider a very difficult, emotional topic: our country’s use of torture after 9/11. We will engage in discussion with kindness and respect toward those in the class. We probably all agree that security and safety are primary concerns for our country. As people of faith we know we have great moral concerns also. In this study we will try to discover if our need for security is compatible with, or even enhanced by, holding to high moral standards and abandoning torture.

“Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out: Kids Living and Learning with New Media.”

Led by Rocky Supinger, Nell Menfee-Libey and Margaret Woodcock

November 8 - 22

Named for a MacArthur Foundation Study, the three-week class will demonstrate how teenagers today are using social media for “Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out.”

Make Christmas Special for Families in Need: 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 five 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 29 and December 6. 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 or to the church office by Sunday, December 13. The gifts will be delivered by Deacons. If you are unable to shop or if you prefer, monetary donations will also be accepted.



Community Meal - CPC to Help November 22

CPC members and friends will have their next chance to serve a meal to some hungry men, women, and children in our community on **Sunday, November 22**. The meal will be served at the Sumner Elementary School in Claremont. You can play a part by preparing a dish to serve (for around 10 people) as well as by being on

hand to help set up, serve, and then clean up. This free community meal is just one way that the people of CPC are blessing the communities of the Pomona Valley and beyond.

High School Youth Ministry

Looking Back

Special thanks to Dr. Jane Dempsey-Douglas, who led our youth through a wonderful time of exploration and conversation in the church's sanctuary. Dr. Dempsey-Douglas was part of the committee that designed the layout of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, and our youth were able to encounter those images in a new and powerful way. Five students (Maran Townzen, James & Jess Croughan, Caitlin McHugh, and Jessica Trindle) took part in the Walk for the Hungry annual fundraiser on October 11th, an event that raises thousands of dollars each year to help needy families. Also, CPC's high school youth did some back-to-the-basics on the Bible and stewardship in October. Thanks to Judy Kohnen for helping our youth explore the intersection of faith and money.

Looking Forward

The five Sundays in November will find the PYGs engaged in more stuff than you can throw a dodgeball at. There's the dodgeball itself, a fundraising tournament on November 15th in Larkin Park organized for the benefit of Inland Valley Hope Partners. But there's also rock climbing at Hangar 18 in Upland on the first, an overnight dating and relationship retreat on the 6th-7th, an evening of fun with the youth from the First Presbyterian Church of Pomona, and serving at the Community Meal on the 22nd. As with all high school youth events, any and all 9th-12 graders are welcome!

Winter Retreat

The weekend of January 16-18 will be this year's high school youth retreat. This is a valuable opportunity for students to get away to rest and reconnect. Application materials will be mailed sometime this month.

2010 Work Trip

On an otherwise inconspicuous October afternoon, George Trindle and Pastor Rocky drove into Los Angeles' Vermont Square neighborhood to scout out a possible youth work trip location. The site was the Vermont Square Methodist Church, headquarters to the Sierra Service Project's (SSP) Los Angeles project. SSP is a service organization connected with the United Methodist Church that leads groups of youth in serving needy communities through home and infrastructure repair. After spending a couple of hours at the site and meeting with SSP's Executive Director Rick Eaton, George and Pastor Rocky felt confident that they'd found their 2010 work site.

So from March 31-April 7, CPC youth will be a world away in LA, helping to rebuild a church, homes, and hope for the kingdom of God. Application materials are forthcoming.

Sunday School

Participants in the youth Sunday school class led by Larry and Jeanine Robertson are spending several weeks exploring world religions. From Hinduism to Judaism and from Islam to Buddhism, youth are encountering the claims and practices of major world religions. All youth are welcome to participate.

Sunday School (2)

For three Sundays in November two CPC high school students, Nell Menefee-Libey and Margaret Woodcock, will be teaching an adult education course with Pastor Rocky on teenagers and social media. Named for a MacArthur Foundation Study, the three-week class will demonstrate how teenagers today are using social media for "Hanging Out, Messing Around, And Geeking Out." See you there!

November PYGlet Events

(Junior High School Youth Group)

November 1

(Sunday): PYGlets
7:00 p.m.
CPC Room 7

November 6-7

(Friday-Saturday):
"Love: All That and More" -
Overnight Retreat,
6:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
at Claremont School
of Theology

November 8

(Sunday): PYGlets
7:00 p.m.
CPC Room 7

November 15

(Sunday):
Ice-skating or Dodge
Ball in the afternoon?

November 22

(Sunday):
Holiday Dinner
immediately after
church,
no 7:00 p.m. PYGlets

November 29

(Sunday):
Thanksgiving Weekend
no 7:00 p.m. PYGlets

It's Holiday Time.. Come Bring in the Cheer!

Please join us on Sunday, November 22, for a Thanksgiving/Advent holiday luncheon to be held immediately after morning service in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have traditional Thanksgiving fare and, to help usher in the Advent Season, ornament making for Jesse Trees. Jesse Trees help families celebrate the lineage of Jesus with ornaments and scriptures to hang in their

homes. This fun filled event will be the alternative to previous years' Advent Workshops.

If you'd like to help plan the event, bring a dish, or organize Jesse Tree materials, please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.



People in the Church: Elders

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be an elder? Ever read those skeletal minutes in the Communicator and thought, what do they really do?

I interviewed four of the five elders whose terms finish this year: Jean Cochran, Mary Ida Gardner, John Hill, and Nora Quinn. In some ways their reflections upon their last three years as members of Session are like a report card on Claremont Presbyterian Church. These years encompass many changes, most notably our adjustment to a new pastor and associate pastor. The grades are in, and they are good, even excellent.

Only John Hill had previously served as an elder, at the beginning of this decade. His eyes sparkled as he reported the improvements he saw in collegiality and mutual support among the elders. The business of the church seems now to be running smoothly. John had a feeling, he said, that "we've set a new course." He had come to realize, he said, that "the CPC congregation is a very strong, enduring community, one with a good corporate vision."

Jean Cochran agreed. Budget reports of recent years tend to show church income lagging behind expenses, yet it always seemed to Jean that "when we're in a pinch, the congregation comes through." Jean also volunteered that "there's something moving in the church." There seemed to be "more hope, more optimism, an atmosphere of 'glad to be here,'" even a "new spirit" which she felt could be attributed to our pastors, Karen and Rocky.

Mary Ida Gardner felt very comfortable serving as an elder. She already had held numerous administrative positions, from Associate Director of the Long Beach YWCA, to the national staff of the YWCA, and later the national staff of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. In New York City she also chaired the Board of Deacons of the Riverside Church, where the deacons had many of the responsibilities and roles that our elders perform. On the day I interviewed her at church a grand number of people of all ages sought to share a moment of delightful conversation with her. If CPC has a "Mother Superior" (a scandalous thought, I suppose, for a Protestant), she is it.

The job of elder is, in Nora Quinn's words, "a rigorous and rewarding journey." Jean Cochran felt it was a big, almost overwhelming responsibility, to care for the well-being of the congregation, the physical plant, and the direction

of the church. Ordination as a church officer gave most elders a greater sense of responsibility and affirmed their commitment. Jean said it was "very meaningful – you are given the blessing of the whole church."

The "business" of the church varies greatly. Elders serve alongside lay members on Commissions, where most of the detailed work of the church occurs. Each elder felt great pride in the successful work of their Commission. Nora worked to reduce our "carbon footprint" on the Property and Finance Commission, and also used her legal knowledge to steer the church around several pitfalls. Mary Ida worked with others on the Personnel Commission to create a new Manual of Operations, one that notably clarified the relationship between the church and the Children's Center. Jean praised the Worship and Music Commission, especially the leadership of John Watts. John Hill saw vitality in the Mission Commission, with its new focus of hands-on mission, involving as many congregants as possible. The recent service of commission for Octavio Guerrero to Living Waters for the World is only one of several examples John mentioned.

Much of the general business gets conducted in monthly meetings that are always too long and paradoxically too short. Most elders will grumble they wish the meetings would be shorter, and yet the process of seeking not just a majority vote but often a comfortable consensus necessitates additional time. People have to grow in trust and respect for each other. It all takes time. "Rigorous," as Nora said, but she also said "rewarding."

In many churches you will often find tensions between a "business" side and a "spiritual" side. Sometimes elders come to the monthly meeting with a strong need for some spiritual uplift and find the focus on "business" to be ever so distant from what they think the mission of the church should be. An elder has been heard to declare that the church doesn't need to adhere to a budget, that God will provide. Managing such tensions can be very difficult. Jean was pleased that Karen had provided more time for spiritual concerns and encouraged the elders to read and discuss a book on evangelism. Nora urged still more time be given to spiritual needs. John and Mary Ida seemed content to devote the meetings to practical matters, allowing a more spiritual focus in other church activities.

(See **Elders** on page 6)

There is none
holy as the
LORD:
neither is
there any
rock like
our God.



1 Samuel 2:2

Farewell to Shiva

Shiva Khalili, the stalwart leader of the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center, will step down on October 30, 2009. During her 20+ years as an educator at CPCC, Shiva has served as a pre-school teacher, Assistant Director, and the Director during the last 9 years. Shiva has seen CPCC through many adventures; the renovations of Buildings #1 and #2, NAEYC accreditation, holiday programs, to name a few. There were many transitions with pastoral staffing changes during this period when CPC was without a full time pastor. In spite of these limitations, Shiva managed remarkably to maintain quality consistency of childcare. The first renovation of the childcare facility occurred in 2002 after which Shiva was able to obtain licensing for the preschool. The second much needed renovation she oversaw was from 2004-2006. Shiva then obtained licensing for the infant and toddler building. The capacity increased from 36 to 48 in the preschool program and from 24 to 36 infants and toddlers.

Her good humor, professionalism, and wonderful rapport with all members of the CPCC community have established the Center as a hallmark of early childhood education in the Claremont area. The excellent budgeting on Shiva's

part came through many times for the advantage of the children's programs. This year with the economic hardships that face many in our community, CPCC's enrollment has dropped considerably and some of those past savings will be needed. It was through her efforts that health insurance was made available to the CPCC staff and also for the other CPC staff. She will be greatly missed and all of her work, care, and devotion to CPCC will not be forgotten. Shiva is looking forward to moving in a new direction. While her talents will be missed, we all wish her well as she sets forth on her new endeavors. We are sure that she will utilize all of her God given talents and skills in her journey and we all bless her and will have fond memories of all her contributions to the many children who have gone through our CPCC program. Please note Shiva's new e-mail address: [Shiva Khalili skkhalili@gmail.com](mailto:Shiva.Khalili@gmail.com)

A celebration reception of Shiva's work for CPCC was held on Monday, October 26th at the Children's Center. Recognition of her 21 years of work for CPCC was also acknowledged during the Sunday October 25th 10:00 a.m. church service.

*Sharon Bentley
Chair, CPCC Commission*



PILGRIM PLACE ANNOUNCES A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

May 20-31, 2010

Led by Rizek & Alice Abusharr

Former residents of Jerusalem, now living at Pilgrim Place
5 days in Jerusalem - 2 days in Bethlehem - 3 days in Galilee

- Visits in and around Jerusalem
- Mt. of Olives
- St. Peter in Gallicantu
- Swim in the Dead Sea
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Devotions in the Field of the Shepherds
- Dialogue with Muslims, Christians and Jews
- Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity
- Galilee and sites related to the ministry of Jesus
- Nazareth and the Nazareth Village



Cost: \$3,800

All inclusive: air fare, ground transportation (including to and from LAX), accommodations, meals, tips, entrance fees. If interested, please contact the church office. You will be sent a brochure with itinerary and the registration information.

Community Thanksgiving

Claremont Presbyterian Church is once again partnering with St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in preparing the Community Thanksgiving Meal, now in its 16th year. St. Ambrose is coordinating with other churches and organizations to prepare and serve a Community Thanksgiving Meal to anyone who is in need. In previous years upwards of 1,500 people from south Pomona, Claremont, and surrounding areas have been fed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Many of those served represent the working poor, unemployed families, homeless, the elderly, and those living alone and unable to cook for themselves.

Many volunteers show up to help serve on Thanksgiving 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, St. Ambrose is 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 also drop the food off in the CPC kitchen before Thanksgiving and a deacon will take it to St. Ambrose for you. Look for details in a Sunday bulletin and through your deacons with sign-up sheets on the patio after worship in November. Thank you for making this outreach program such a meaningful and successful event every year!



Blood Drive Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who supported the American Red Cross Blood Drive which was held on Friday, October 16 in Fellowship Hall. We received twenty-one good units of blood. It is always good to donate and feel that someone will be receiving a very special gift. I want to thank also those who volunteered their help with setting up, registration, canteen and bringing cheer. Those who helped were: Pat Beswick, David Gibson, Anita Hughes, Joan Liebeck, Jane MacLeod, Dawn Swarthout, Catherine Thompson and Ray Valadez. A good job by all.

~ Ruth L. Auld

Elders (cont. from Page 4)

Any advice for future elders? Could the experience be improved? Possibly there could be some improvement in orientation, since most of the elders had trouble recalling much of such an event when they became elders. On the other hand, Jean averred, "there's really no mystery about being an elder." Perhaps most important would be ways to encourage elders to know and trust each other. John recalled a potluck dinner once at the end of the year and hoped it might be revived.

Asked if their experience had brought them closer to God, most elders said it had. They saw, in Nora's words, "the devotion of my fellow elders" and felt their own commitment reinforced by that of others. John's work with Mission brought him closer to the suffering of other human beings, and prompted him to raise that unanswerable question, "why them – and why not me?" He had slowly learned, he said, "that I have to leave many things that I see in the hands of God without being too judgmental."

Sometimes I think we should honor our elders more. In recent years good lay leadership is especially valuable. It's a great task they undertake. The hours pile up. On occasion the frustrations seem to outweigh the satisfactions. Yet it is also a great testament to the congregation and to the leaders of this church that the elders I interviewed are completing their service with a strong sense of accomplishment and joy. The last word belongs to Nora Quinn:

"rewarding."

~ Dick Johnson

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 09/30/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$374,666	\$408,750
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	51,555	51,375
Expenses	(472,310)	(486,897)
VARIANCE	(46,089)	(26,772)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 09/30/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$393,695	467,904
Expenses	(411,307)	(482,360)
VARIANCE	(17,612)	(14,456)



THANKSGIVING



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

Jazz Vesper Service November 1



A community All Saints Day service to remember those who have left us will be held Sunday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee is sponsoring the event. The Kate Reid Jazz Quartet will be playing their wonderful jazz vocals. A presentation of images of those who have left us will provide the reflection. If you have photos you would like to have included, digital images can be sent to John Watts at johnswatts@verizon.net.



Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 1. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31.

Appreciation Reception for Gwen Bray and Cole Patton

We are sorry to report that we have received a letter of resignation from Gwen Bray, the Director of the Sunday morning CPC Nursery, and her son Cole Patton, a Nursery Aide, who for many years have dedicated their time to caring for the youngest children at CPC. In order to express our gratitude to and appreciation of them, we will hold a reception in their honor on Sunday, November 15th, during the 9:00 Sunday School hour. Please join us to thank them for their efforts and to offer your continued support to their family.

Related to this change, we have begun the process of hiring a new Nursery Director. In the meantime, Julie Starrett has generously offered to serve as interim director. Please feel welcome to leave your infants through kindergarteners with her during the Sunday School hour; during the Worship hour, infants through 1st graders are welcome to attend the nursery.

Session Digest

In its September meeting, the Session:

- Welcomed Moderator Karen back from her convalescence.
- Reviewed documents for the final distribution of the Goodenough estate which names CPC as beneficiary.
- Heard highlights from the September Presbytery meeting and began plans for the 1/30/10 meeting on our campus.
- Adopted a policy statement concerned with avoiding possible conflicts of interest by officers of the church, for inclusion in the Operations Manual.
- Affirmed the commissioning of Deacon Octavio Guerrero to participate in the Living Waters for the World training program.
- Approved use of a portion of the Peacemaking Offering for the Inland Valley Hope Partners.

~Steven Sittig
Clerk of Session

COMMUNICATOR



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

Piecing Earth Together

The title of this year's World Community Day sponsored by ChurchWomen United is "Piecing Earth Together." The celebration will be on Friday, November 6 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church at 435 Berkeley Avenue in Claremont. The speaker will be the Rev. Julie Roberts Fronk, Senior Pastor of the First Christian Church in Pomona.

Night Blooming Jazzmen Concert November 14

On November 14 at 4:00 p.m. a concert of Dixieland music will be presented by the Night Blooming Jazzmen in the CPC Sanctuary. This performance is in celebration of the life of Jack Fulton who passed away on September 7, 2009. Please come and enjoy this wonderful, happy music that Jack so loved.

Save the Date!

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 6 | Alternative Christmas Gift Market |
| December 13 | Christmas Pageant |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. |