



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

October 2009



CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, October 4 10:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

Service of Holy Communion

Joint Service with Emmanuel

Hispanic Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, October 11 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible:

“Stories of the Early Church”

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, October 18 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible:

“Stories of the Early Church”

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, October 25 10:00 a.m.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preaching Through the Bible:

“Stories of the Early Church”

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

From the Pastor

For a recent sermon I did a little research on the hymn, *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*, and I employed Stuart Lillich to sing it during the sermon (with about 15 minutes notice.) The outline of that hymn’s history is intriguing: written by a young Irish expatriate in Canada as a poem to his lonely and ill mother back home, it was published anonymously. Some years later the expatriate was himself in ill health, and a visiting neighbor spotted the poem on his desk and inquired, “Are you the author of this lovely poem?” The answer was swift and deflective:

“The Lord and I did it together.”

Since that sermon I’ve had a number of encounters and conversations that have me thinking about friendship. “I need to make some friends,” someone’s cracking voice told me; I met a new colleague who shapes up to be a remarkable friend; old friends in faraway places are present through Facebook and Twitter. When all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Well, October finds me wielding a friendship hammer, and nails are jutting out everywhere.

I used to think that making friends was a nice side benefit to belonging to a Christian community. I don’t think so anymore. Now I wonder if belonging to a community isn’t a benefit of friendship. Making friends with people (the *wrong* people – “tax collectors and sinners”) was not peripheral to what Jesus was doing in Galilee. You could argue that everything Jesus does can be understood as making friends.

My autumn hope, then, is that our worship and ministry makes friends. May our gathering and our working strengthen friendships, as well as extend friendship to the friendless. Is it possible that our faithfulness to the gospel will be measured by nothing else?

The peace of Christ,

Rocky Supinger

Associate Pastor

World Communion Sunday - Worship at 10:30

October 4 is World Communion Sunday. We will be celebrating the Eucharist with our brothers and sisters from Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church, worshipping together at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Karen Sapio will be preaching.

We will also receive the Peacemaking Offering on that day. Three quarters of the offering goes to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support peacemaking efforts worldwide. One quarter stays here at CPC to be used at the discretion of our Church & Society Commission.

36th Annual Walk for the Hungry

Sunday, October 11, 2009

A 5/10K Walk in Ontario's Historic College District
Chaffey High School, 1245 North Euclid Avenue, Ontario
12:00 p.m. Registration - 1:00 p.m Walk Begins



Join in the FUN and
make a difference in
your own community!

It's easy...1-2-3...to join in:

1. Commit to walking and obtain a Sponsorship Form from Pastor Rocky.
2. Ask your friends and neighbors to sponsor you. Collect sponsor donations in advance of the Walk and fill in their name and address on the Sponsorship Form. All donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: Hope Partner's Walk.
3. Turn in your Sponsorship Form and donation envelope at the Registration Table on the day of the Walk. Have a great time walking to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless in your own community.



FREE MUSIC
POPCORN
FACE PAINTING
BALLOONS



ENJOY A BURGER,
CHIPS AND DRINK
Starting at \$6.50
(while quantities last)



Food Drive Please bring a can of food or other non-perishable food item to the Walk.

Inland Valley Hope Partners - Celebrating 40 years of Outreach and Service to the People of:
Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar, La Verne, Montclair, Mt. Baldy, Ontario, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, San Dimas, Upland and Walnut.
Administrative Office: 1753 N. Park Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768 - (909) 622-3806, toivcc@verizon.net, www.hope-partners.com

Youth Ministry Volunteers Give Voice to Mission, Values

Talking around tables, doodling on flip-charts, passing document drafts back-and-forth: this is how several CPC members and staff spent a weekend in August. They were crafting "visioning documents" for CPC's ministry with youth, including a mission statement, a statement of values, and a list of 12 three-year goals. Our congregation is blessed to have these dedicated and thoughtful people at the helm of its work with junior high and high school students.

Here is the youth ministry mission statement the group produced. It's a statement of what youth ministry at CPC does.

"The youth ministry of Claremont Presbyterian Church:

- Actively invites and joyfully welcomes the youth and families of our church and community into a faith journey
- Fosters an understanding of God's love and Christian faith and values
- Promotes service to others

- Engages youth in opportunities for leadership, recreation, and spiritual growth."

And here are the values that the group expressed, the ones that shape how we minister to and with young people at CPC.

- Belonging: We value a community where each participant feels a sense of acceptance, where individual talents are welcome and involvement is encouraged.
- Hospitality: We value and welcome visitors, serve one another in the community, and model the inclusive teachings of Christ.
- Compassion: We nurture empathy toward our community and the global environment, and we respond with learning, service, and advocacy.
- Humor and Fun: We aspire to offer distinctly Christian fellowship that is engaging and joyful.

May God bless both the "what" and the "how" of our youth ministry.

Sunday Morning
at Nine

See the insert included in this newsletter for Adult Education Opportunities at Claremont Presbyterian Church

PYGs in October

CPC's high school Presbyterian Youth Group (PYGs) is in full swing. PYGs typically meets on Sunday night in the PYG room at 7:00 to enjoy one another's company, eat a bit, hang out, and connect to meaningful engagement with God and the world.

During October we'll have regular PYG gatherings on the 4th and 18th, but we'll be doing two special events as well. On Sunday the 11th, we will participate in the Walk for The Hungry, a big fundraiser for local and global hunger programs, including our local food pantries. The walk begins at Chaffey High School in Ontario, and registration opens at 12 noon. Participants should bring a canned food item with them.

On Sunday, October 25, we'll head out to the orchards in Oak Glen for an afternoon of apple picking. We'll probably leave church after the Congregational Meeting and get back in the evening.

Please call or email Pastor Rocky with any questions, rsupinger@claremontpres.org or (909) 624-9693.

Stewardship: Where Is Your Heart?

...for where your heart is, there your treasure will be. The 2010 Stewardship campaign seeks to broaden our definition of Stewardship beyond pledge cards, stirring speeches, dry budget considerations, and any soulful pleading on my part. Our congregation is wonderfully a generous and inspirational group of people. We are so blessed. I would like us to learn more about one another. What do we all do with our time, talent and money? What are we about? What do we support as a church family and as individuals? Indeed, where is CPC's heart?

I invite you all to join me on a treasure hunt. Let's explore and discover the deeds and the causes that we cherish as a congregation and as individuals. I'll be gathering your information for the next couple of Sundays. Stop by the Stewardship booth on the patio and choose a fun (and free) activity.

- Take a stewardship survey. Tell us how you are a steward.
- Learn about Random Acts of Stewardship. Tell us what random, unscheduled acts of stewardship you have done this week.
- The Biggest Heart Contest. Come and cast your ballot. Which individual in our

Living Waters for the World

Early this month representatives from across the San Gabriel Presbytery will attend Clean Water U (CWU), a three-day training event at the Calvin Crest Conference Center in Oakhurst. CWU is a "simulation experience designed to equip mission teams with the skills necessary to form partnerships with communities in need of clean water, equip local leaders to lead ongoing health, hygiene and spiritual education and install the Living Waters for the World clean water system."

Among the mission team from San Gabriel Presbytery will be CPC's own Octavio Guerrero, a Deacon and member of the Mission Interpretation Commission. Octavio got involved in San Gabriel's mission team after learning about Living Waters for the World, a Presbyterian-led project that helps people in communities lacking access to clean water. At the heart of the mission is a clean water system, which mission teams construct alongside local residents.

CPC is excited to have Octavio's involvement in this new mission venture of our presbytery. We hold him in our prayers as he travels to CWU, and we trust that his work there will bear fruit for CPC's mission efforts as well.

congregation do you think has the biggest, most caring heart? What local organization do you nominate for the best works in our community? What organization do you think does its best for the world?

- Join my Stewardship Committee. I need help with possible interviews of heartfull members, with the set-ups of various displays, powerpoint presentations and the databasing of information. Maybe some cookies and tea too.

Stewardship celebration Sunday is November 8, and of course we will have determined budgets and asked for your pledge by that date. However Stewardship is not determined by one day, or a couple of weeks in the year. I will compile all the information given to us to share with everyone. Please participate and celebrate CPC's "treasure" throughout the year!

~Judy Kohnen,
Stewardship Chair

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

Matthew 6:21

Congregational Meeting October 25

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, October 25 in Fellowship Hall. Our agenda will include election of Elders and Deacons for the class of 2012 and the presentation of a preliminary budget for 2010. All members of CPC are encouraged to attend.

People in the Church: Deacons

Okay, you might prefer to call me ignorant, but I would like to think that interviewing several deacons this month was a real eye-opener. Carol West, Sally Lopez and her son, Youth Deacon Daric Lopez, and Patricia Maine, all deacons completing terms, agreed to be interviewed.

Let's try a quiz: true or false, the main focus of a deacon is the parish. Now be honest. Didn't some of you think, along with me, that the answer is "true"? Really? Oh. Well, read on. You might still find some interesting items.

Every church has a core of people who seek to live their commitment as fully as possible. Within that core at CPC you will find the Deacons. "We are the face, the hands and heart of CPC," said Patricia Maine. The Deacons are responsible for receptions after a church event. They distribute flowers after worship service is over. They serve communion to shut-ins. And they enable a host of community efforts, such as the Adopt A School program, the Beta Center, Hope Partners, and Uncommon Good. They arrange the greeters on Sunday morning and the coffee and refreshments that add such hospitality to those moments after worship.

The people I interviewed were delighted to be deacons. It gives them multiple opportunities to fulfill their ideal of Christian commitment by being of service to others. It also puts them in close contact with their fellow deacons, in whose actions they often see "genuine examples of caring" that are deeply encouraging and worthy of emulation.

When asked if the fact that they were ordained made a difference in their service as a deacon, most people at first said no. They thought of themselves as church members whose service did not depend on a formal recognition. Upon further reflection, however, Patricia Maine noted that it increased a sense of solidarity and mutual support among the Deacons. For Daric Lopez, the act of ordination was intensely special. To be in front of the congregation, to feel the welcoming hands of other church leaders resting on your shoulders, gave Daric an immense sense of support and encouragement.

Interestingly, the fact that the deacons depend for their financial support upon the monthly giving from church members in the pews had a profound impact on the deacons who spoke to me. Their efforts require the willing support of the congregation, and they have never had a situation where the congregation has failed them. It is a great testament, both to the work of the deacons and the appreciative recognition of that work by the congregation, that this financial system, totally voluntary, continues to function so well.

With the help of several Associate Pastors and now Reverend David Lutz, the Deacons have in place a model orientation program, an organizational framework, and a mutual support system. Being a deacon is less like a well-defined job and more like adapting to a process where

responsibilities and expectations can change. All my interviewees, however, felt comfortable in their roles, knowing they were well-supported.

Although parish work is not the main activity of deacons, it is often the most frustrating. Each deacon is assigned a parish of approximately 25 families. The lists need constant updating as people change residence or church. While the ideal might be a neighborhood parish based on geographic proximity, our reality cancels that. Of the eight deacons who are retiring this year, only one lives in Claremont. To get in touch with each other, we rely on the telephone, an act increasingly frustrating in the era of answer machines and cell-phone-only families. How do we know when someone needs care or attention? The church office maintains a board listing such people, but that doesn't always work well for deacons who live far from the church.

Improvements are in the works. The deacons are shifting to email as one means of improving communication. They hold an annual retreat where they brainstorm and review the role of the deacons in the church, an event Carol West noted was "very helpful." In addition they often use an annual Christmas party as an opportunity for the outgoing and incoming deacons to share experiences and ideas.

All of the people I interviewed became deacons partly because they wanted to experience closer relationships with the CPC church family. All were pleased with the results. Daric, the youth deacon, found a new identity. People saw him, he said, "as me, not just 'Sally's son.'" It brought him closer to the church and all its members. The other deacons had similar responses, indicating strengthened relations and greater respect for the church as a whole.

How did their experience as Deacon affect their relationship with God? Patricia Maine felt closer. "I see God's hand in the Deacons' activities, how people are being helped." Carol West knew that in some significant way it had strengthened her faith. Both Sally and Daric Lopez spoke of being "brought closer to God" in their acts of service.

Each year in August a church nominating committee invites potential new deacons and elders. Are you seeking to know God better, to gain strength yourself, to serve others and know the joy of that service, and to connect with a group of deeply caring people? I am convinced, as a result of my interviews, that the best role in CPC to accomplish these things is to become a deacon.

~ Dick Johnson



Blood Drive October 16

The American Cross Bloodmobile will be at Claremont Presbyterian Church on Friday, October 16 from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. If you are in good health, are at least 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds you may be a perfect candidate for sharing your "Gift of Life" with someone desperate to live. Think about what this will mean to all of you to help one another in this way.

Call the church office at (909) 624-9693 for an appointment. Thank you.

Session Digest

At its August meeting the Session:

- Remembered and prayed for our convalescing Pastor Karen.
- Received encouraging reports of outreach to our community from the Deacons and the Church and Society Commission.
- Considered a proposed policy governing potential conflicts of interest by church leaders.
- Learned of the theme for the upcoming stewardship campaign: "Where Is Your Heart?"

~Steve Sittig,
Clerk of Session

Mysteries

Looking forward to Elaine Walker's book review in 2010, Presbyterian Women of Claremont Presbyterian Church announce a reading list of mysteries by Julia Spencer-Fleming. The series, set in the Adirondack region of upstate New York, introduces newly minted Episcopal priest, Clare Fergusson, and small town Chief of Police, Russ Van Alstyne, partners in romance and solutions to crime (some white collar, some more violent.)

Presbyterian Women recommend that you read the first book, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, and then, if you find yourself thoroughly hooked, read the others strictly in order. (Pastor Karen Sapio is a fan.) Books in paperback @ \$6.99 are available at Barnes and Noble and Borders; hardbacks are available in the Claremont Public Library.

In the Bleak Midwinter (2002)
Fountain Filled with Blood (2003)
Out of the Deep I Cry (2004)
To Darkness and to Death (2005)
All Mortal Flesh (2006)
I Shall Not Want (2008)
 Forthcoming - *One Was a Soldier* (April 2010)
 All by Julia Spencer-Fleming

Annual Project Angel Baby Shower

The annual Project Angel Baby Shower for newborns at LA County USC Medical Center, in which the Presbyterian Women of CPC participate, will be held at Temple Beth Israel, Tuesday evening, **October 20 at 7:00 p.m.** Project Angel has been successful in supplying gifts for babies born into families living at or below poverty level for many years..


Suggested items needed (all should be new): knitted caps, booties, afghans or blankets; purchased blankets, crib sheets, towels, wash cloths, undershirts, plastic pants, bibs, sleepers, gowns, body suits, sweaters, socks, disposable diapers, wipes, baby powder/oil/lotion/soap, bottles, bottle brushes, soft toys.

Please put the date on your calendar and join us for an evening of fellowship with women of other communities of faith and learn more about Angel Interfaith Network, Inc.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 08/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$338,023	\$363,333
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	47,858	45,667
Expenses	(417,267)	(433,037)
VARIANCE	(31,386)	(24,037)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 08/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$356,444	415,915
Expenses	(373,451)	(428,764)
VARIANCE	(17,007)	(12,849)

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

CPC FREE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

On November 15 of 2008 fires raged through Orange County. Freeways were closed and the CHP requested that people stay off the roads. Bones West was scheduled to perform at CPC, but the majority of their band lived in Orange County and could not get to Claremont. It was the first and only time the Performing Arts Series had a cancellation. Not to worry! Bones West is anxious to return. Don't miss this opportunity!

Welcome Back

Bones West

Directed by Peter Fournier

Saturday, October 3 7:00 p.m.



A dynamic trombone band consisting of about 30 performers including: trombonists, rhythm-section, vocalist and conductor. Big Band sounds first brought to CPC in February 2007 to commemorate Bill Bentley who had been a much beloved member of the group.

Bones West 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 gives *Bones West* its unusual appearance and distinct quality of sound. Under the leadership of President Len Wicks and Musical Director Peter Fournier, *Bones West* 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.

Bones West 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, *Bones West* toured to New York concluding with a command performance at Carnegie Hall.

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

~Presbyterian Performing Arts Committee

COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Senior Social

Many years ago there were several social groups at CPC, principally the Clippers and Cruisers, spin-offs from a national organization known as Mariners. But that was then, this is now, and several former Clippers members are sponsoring a senior social, a fun evening for seniors. And no, we are not going to define senior! The date is **Friday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall** and the program consists of dessert and crazy cards, a simple game that many of you will remember as somewhat hilarious and certainly entertaining. There will be no charge for the evening.

Save the Date!

November 1	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 22	Adopt A Family begins
November 29	Advent Workshop
December 6	Alternative Christmas Gift Market
December 13	Christmas Pageant

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 at (909) 624-4454 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.