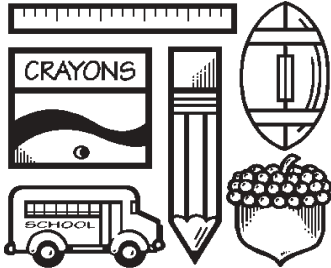




# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

September 2009



## SEPTEMBER

### CPC Worship Plans

Sunday, September 6 10:00 a.m.  
*Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Service of Holy Communion*  
Preaching Through the Bible:  
“Jesus’ Ministry and Teaching”  
2009 PYG Work Project  
participants preaching

Sunday, September 13 10:00 a.m.  
*Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Kick-Off Sunday*  
Preaching Through the Bible:  
“Jesus’ Ministry and Teaching”  
The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday, September 20 10:00 a.m.  
*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Preaching Through the Bible:  
“The Way of the Cross”  
The Rev. David Lutz preaching

Sunday, September 27 10:00 a.m.  
*Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Preaching Through the Bible:  
“Resurrection Life”  
The Rev. Ruth Santana Grace preaching

## From the Pastor

In a college town like Claremont, “back to school” affects everyone – even if it has been years since you have been in school or since you dropped anyone off at the schoolhouse door!

It may not be a sacred season like Advent, Lent or Easter: still, the “back to school” season offers many opportunities for prayer and action. As we experience this season over the next several weeks, let’s look for those opportunities.

When you see a school bus – pray for children whose schooling has been disrupted by war or natural disaster.

When you go out to dinner – set aside an equal amount of money for a local tutoring program.

When sending an e-mail – give thanks for the teacher who taught you to read and write.

If you are a new “empty nester” – ask some good friends to help you discern where God is calling you to direct your attention and energy in this new phase of your life.

When you enter a classroom – ask God to help you remember that you are standing on holy ground.

On the first day of school – especially if you are not a student or teacher – ask God what new thing it is you need to learn in the coming year.

Do you recognize the unlikely “teachers” or “students” who come into your life? Ask God for eyes to see and an open mind and heart.

### Save the Date:

World Communion Sunday Worship Celebration  
with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church  
10:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary  
Karen Sapio preaching

# Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

Adult Education will begin the Fall season with a 2-week series entitled *Cold Cuts: How the budget cuts affect the people in our community!* The first week a panel will speak to Local issues and the second week another panel will speak to State & National issues. The Moderator for these panels will be Dick Johnson, retired professor, Cal Poly, Pomona.



## Cold Cuts

Fellowship Hall

September 20 - Local Issues Panel

Hilary LaConte, (Claremont School Board) Education

Sharon Hightower, (retired City Planner) Housing

Linda Elderkin, (Claremont Mayor Pro-Tem) Local Government

September 27 - State & National Issues Panel

Carol Sittig, (Dept. of Social Services, San Bernardino County) Family & Child Welfare

Sally Seven, (League of Women Voters) Healthcare

John Hill, (retired Law Enforcement Officer) Public Safety

## Faith, Finance and Family

A three week series led by Judy Kohnen and David Lutz from October 4 through October 18.

## Invitation to the New Testament

An eight week Bible Study led by David Cortes-Fuentes beginning October 4 and ending November 22.

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## Help with Community Meal September 13

The Community Meal program expanded to three Sundays a month at the beginning of 2009. Meals are now served to about 125 people in need in our community on the second Sunday of the month at Vista Elementary School and the third and fourth Sundays of the month at Sumner Elementary School. Claremont Presbyterian Church is one of seven congregations involved in this program.

Sunday, September 13 CPC is responsible for preparing and serving the meal. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office at (909) 624-9693.

## Join the CPC Sanctuary Choir

Thank you to all who contributed to our summer choir and to those who led CPC in worship with their music this summer.

Regular choir starts rehearsing Thursday **September 10 at 7:30 p.m.** The choir will be singing in the church service on September 13. We welcome all returning members and invite any others who are interested to come try us out. We have rousing, fun rehearsals and are happy to share our enthusiasm and love of singing with any and all.

## Kickoff to the Kickoff – A Night at the Movies Saturday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand is the Kickoff to the Kickoff Saturday Evening extravaganza! What is the kickoff to the kickoff? This is a time, perhaps the only time, when the Claremont Presbyterian Community kicks back and has some fun being entertained by our own vast pool of talent. We do this before we settle into our more serious program year starting the next day.

How can you be part of this amazing event? You have three opportunities:

- 1) You could prepare an act – a song, a dance, a skit, a dramatic reading – and be one of the Movie Stars. The movie theme is a guideline for acts, not written in stone. Talent preferred but not required. Kids welcome and encouraged.
- 2) You can prepare fabulous nibbles for fellowship afterwards.
- 3) You can come and be an enthusiastic audience member, cheering on the performers.

Call the church office at (909) 624-9693 for more information.



## Sunday School Is Back!

Children's/Youth Sunday School will resume on **Sunday, September 13**. Please have your children join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Angell Courtyard. Youth will be directed to the PYG Room; children will meet in the PYGlet Room (Room 7.) Nursery care will be provided in the Children's Center. Sunday School will end at 9:50.

## PYGlets!!!

If you are in 7th or 8th grade this year, come join the PYGlets group. We meet **Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** in the PYGlet Room (Room 7) starting September 27.

See invitation to the annual kick off PYG/PYGlet Roast below.



### PYGs & PYGlets & Families & Friends Annual PYG Roast Barbecue

On Sunday, September 20th,  
the junior high and high school youth groups at CPC  
kick off their year with the annual PYG and PYGlet Roast.

The event will be held at the home of Earl, Sue, and Eric Thorndyke  
from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

There will be lots of food, a pool,  
and plenty of opportunities to just hang out.

Come meet our incoming PYGs and PYGlets and reconnect with  
all our returning students.

(Please note that this date is one week later than originally scheduled.)

Please call or email Rocky with questions at (909) 624-9693 or  
[rsupinger@claremontpres.org](mailto:rsupinger@claremontpres.org)

## Beginning Hebrew

Temple Beth Israel is offering a Beginning Hebrew class from October 8, 2009 to June 24, 2010 (34 sessions.) The class will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Ave., Pomona. If you have any questions or want information, please call Arava at (909) 399-9631, or email: [Arava777@aol.com](mailto:Arava777@aol.com). To register, contact Temple Beth Israel at (909) 626-1277. The class costs \$610 for non-members of TBI.

## Acolyte Orientation and Commissioning Is September 13th

Acolytes are an important part of worship at ACPC. These 4th - 8th graders assist with important functions of the worship service, including lighting the chancel candles, leading calls to worship, and receiving the offering.

This year, a brief orientation will be held for all acolytes, new and returning, on Sunday morning, **September 13 at 8:30 a.m.** We will learn the basics of an acolyte's job and take a brief tour of the Sanctuary. Then, during the worship service, all of the year's acolytes will be commissioned for their service.

If you know a young person who would like to be an acolyte for the 2009-2010 year, please plan on attending this orientation and commissioning. If you are unable to attend or if you have any questions, please call Pastor Rocky at (909) 624-9693 or send him an email at [rsupinger@claremontpres.org](mailto:rsupinger@claremontpres.org).

## PYG Worktrip "Stockholder Meeting"

The nine youth and five adult advisors who spent the first week in August on the U.S./Mexico border in Tucson and Nogales invite you to come and hear all about it on Sunday, September 13. If you purchased stock in the trip, this is your chance to see pictures and video and to hear first hand accounts of what we saw, heard, felt, and did. If you didn't purchase stock, please come anyway (it is, after all, the *church's* mission our youth were carrying out.)

From an hour in a courtroom to a walk in the desert and from painting children's faces to serving migrants a meal, CPC's young people had a wide array of experiences and made a positive impact in ways they may never really know. The church has cause to be very, very proud of them and to come celebrate with them their faithful work and safe return.

Please join us following worship on **Sunday, September 13th in the Fellowship Hall.**

## People in the Church: the PYGs Service Project

A funny thing happened on the way to the PYGs service project in Nogales, Mexico, this August.

It turned out not to be a service project.

Here's how it happened. Originally the PYGs planned a service project in Tijuana, but news reports of drug wars, murders, and kidnappings in that city convinced some parents to raise objections. Looking for an alternative, Associate Pastor Rocky Supinger found Borderlinks, a program whose website identifies their goal to be "education" about border issues. Based in Tucson, they also had contacts with a day care center in Nogales, Mexico, and they also provided an opportunity for "homestays," allowing American youth to stay overnight with a Mexican family. In addition, Borderlinks had never experienced any problems of security. It all sounded good. The PYGs signed on for August 1-8. Wanting to know how the young people of our church view their acts of service, I asked Rocky for permission to interview several of them before and after the project. He enthusiastically agreed and suggested I contact Dylan Sittig, Emma Randles, and James and Jess Croughan.

All of the youth I interviewed had been on previous work projects. They eagerly looked forward to a similar pattern involving work in the daytime, building something that would make a lasting contribution to their hosts, some free time for "hanging out," and time spent with host families where they could learn first-hand about another culture. They valued the opportunity for time to spend with each other in late night conversations about faith, life and hopes, forging bonds that would last for years.

Sometimes reality differs from expectations, or as John Lennon said, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." Borderlinks focused on immigration, but the education they offered was decidedly one-sided. At their Tucson base they took the PYGs to see the work of a local artist who strongly criticized the U.S. building of a border wall designed to limit illegal immigration. They met with local activists who had been arrested for "littering" when they placed bottles of water in the Arizona desert where immigrants had died while trying to cross the border. One man was facing either jail time or a fine of \$10,000, Jess Croughan told me. Perhaps the most lasting impression came from their witness of "Operation Streamline," an aptly named federal program that seeks to try and

convict at least 70 immigrants each day. Men and women, shackled at wrists and ankles, are brought into a courtroom. According to an MSNBC report, "immigrants are given mass trials, where they are generally convicted or plead guilty. A judge sentences each of them to a minimum of two weeks in jail, with sentences of up to six months for repeat offenders.... Critics of the program...say the immigrant's rights are being violated, and the mass trials deny them due process." James told me he thought the process was fair since the immigrants had violated U.S. law by trying to enter the U.S. illegally, but the other PYGs I interviewed were appalled, calling it a "a mockery of U.S. justice."

After two days in Tucson, the group went to Nogales, Mexico, where they spent three days helping out in a children's day camp and three nights in host homestays. While they enjoyed being with the children in the day camp, they also voiced regret that they made no lasting change in the lives of the children, the day camp, or their host families. In Nogales they saw many people living in or on the edge of poverty. One afternoon they visited a "comidor" where Jesuits provided food, clothing and medical care to those who had been deported from the U.S. They heard stories of the desperate living conditions in Mexico that had driven many to risk death or capture in crossing the border.

In retrospect it became clear that the focus of their experience was the immigration issue. While they appreciated the knowledge they gained, they deeply resented the way it was fed to them. In particular, they found their Borderlinks supervisor, a woman who was with them "all the time (!)" to be very biased, "a control freak," and "really bossy." She "treated us like ignorant kids," frequently explaining the same thing ad nauseum. They had very little free time. The evening times they had hoped would be for conversations with each other instead became "reflection times" with leading questions posed by the supervisor. All the youth found her very irritating. Jess Croughan offered the kindest remark, saying that perhaps their experience would have been better with a different leader.

Borderlinks urged our youth to return to their churches and communities and tell everyone what they had seen. All of the youth I interviewed said they were willing to do so if asked, but all felt overwhelmed by the enormity of the problem

(See **PYGs** on Page 6)



## Bag-It Sunday Is September 20

The CPC Board of Deacons is preparing for our annual “Bag-It Sunday” where we put together hygiene kits for homeless people who come to the Beta and Sova Centers that we support. We are looking for the following items (all in travel sizes) that you can pick up the next time you shop. Our goal is thirty kits. Please drop off your donations in the church office any day before September 20.



For each kit:  
Washcloth,  
New Gym Socks,  
Toothbrush,  
Toothpaste,  
Emery Board,  
Shaving Cream,  
Disposable Razor,  
Kleenex Pack,  
Shampoo, Conditioner,  
Deodorant (men’s and women’s),  
Comb, Dental Floss,  
Hand Lotion.,  
Optional: Sewing Kit,  
Band Aids

## Produce Sunday - September 6

For the past few months the people of CPC have responded to a call to bring their locally grown fruit and vegetables to church, so that it might be donated to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona. Here’s some good news: you can do it again!

On the first Sunday of September, we invite you to pick the peaches, tomatoes, and any other types of produce growing on your trees and in your gardens. They will be collected during worship and then taken to the food pantry for immediate distribution. Come and share of your bounty!



## Men’s Breakfast Group

The Men’s Breakfast Group invites you to join them at their weekly meetings! They meet Wednesdays at Mt. San Antonio Gardens in a private dining room but take buffet breakfast in the main dining room. The time is still 7:24 a.m. and the price is still \$8.00 per person. Parking is inside the complex just in front of the dining room in Visitor Parking spots. There is ample parking. Walking and carpooling are encouraged.

Join them on Wednesday, September 2!

## The Loaves and Fishes Society: An Additional Way to Give Back to CPC

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to “give back” to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

While the annual pledge campaign provides the vital funding to support the daily operating budget of the Church, the bequest program serves long-range needs, as described in the Loaves and Fishes Society brochure. If you would like another copy of the brochure for yourself or a friend, please pick one up in the Church office – we hope it will serve as a ready guide and reference for future use.

Just as the loaves and fishes were multiplied to sustain multitudes (John 6:9), our individual bequest gifts, when combined with those of others, will have a far greater impact than any one of us could achieve on our own. To date, twenty-six people have become members of our Loaves and Fishes Society.

When you too have taken this important step, please inform one of the Pastors, any member of the Committee, or Jo Colclough in the Church office – we want to offer our hearty thanks to you, as well!

The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee  
of Claremont Presbyterian Church,

Harry Brunger  
Marilyn Brunger  
Lee Harlan  
Dee Kelley  
Karen Sapio  
Pieter Sigtenhorst  
Stan Springer  
Craig Stubblebine  
Kent Warner



*There is a boy here who has  
five barley loaves and two  
fish. But what are they  
among so many?*

~John 6:9

## Interfaith Walk for Unity & Peace



All are welcome to participate in an event to promote friendship and understanding among faiths in our community on Sunday, September 13 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Claremont Presbyterian Church. At 5:30 those gathered will walk to Temple Beth Israel at 3033 N. Towne Avenue in Pomona. After a short program at the temple the group will walk to the Claremont Islamic Center at 3641 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona. All will join members of the Islamic Center as they break the day's Ramadan fast at sunset and be their guests for a meal of friendship.

Participants are encouraged to park at TBI or CPC and walk back or share rides to cars. Those unable to walk are welcome to drive between venues but there is limited parking at CIC.

## The Conscientious Projector

Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Claremont Forum, Progressive Christians Uniting and the Claremont Forum present *Taxi to the Dark Side*.

*Taxi to the Dark Side* is a 2007 documentary film directed by American filmmaker Alex Gibney, and produced by Eva Orner and Susannah Shipman, which won the 2007 Academy Award for Documentary Feature.

The film focuses on the death of an Afghan taxi driver named Dilawar while being held in extrajudicial detention at the Bagram Air Base.

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 07/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$294,070	\$317,917
Reserves	0	0
Other Income	43,710	39,958
Expenses	(365,365)	(379,176)
VARIANCE	(27,585)	(21,301)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 0/31/09	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$321,292	363,925
Expenses	(331,367)	(375,169)
VARIANCE	(10,075)	(11,244)

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

## 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.

Sign ups will be on the patio during September.

## PYGs (from page 4)

and leery of taking on the role of political activist that Borderlinks seemed to advocate. Moved by what they witnessed, they also recognized the complexity of the immigration issue. Nothing but better living and working conditions in Mexico, they realized, will be able to stem the tide of desperate Mexicans looking for ways simply to survive. Emma and James both saw the need for some kind of temporary worker visa program. Dylan joined a Facebook group of the Sierra Club that seeks to stop the damage caused by the Wall to the habitat and to migratory animals.

There's one more thing. In talking with our youth, I thought at times I detected a strong feeling of discomfort and ambivalence. In previous work projects they could look back with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that they had improved the lives of others. Seeing up close the miserable conditions of many Mexicans on both sides of the border, they felt a strong impulse to be helpful. But what could they do? The question plagued them. Jesus said, "When you do it for one of the least of these, you do it for me." What did that mean in this situation? Would preventing a death in the desert, helping "the least of these," mean standing against the laws of your country? This unspoken dilemma seemed deep down to tug at them, giving a certain sense of unease and frustration to their conversations with me. I don't think anyone had adequately prepared them to confront it. Perhaps it is now a calling for the rest of us to help them, and ourselves, find ways to put our faith in life's arena. What do you think?

~Dick Johnson



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](mailto: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



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Claremont, CA 91711  
(909) 624-9693

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

## Save the Date!

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| October 4  | World Communion Sunday<br>Worship Celebration with<br>Emmanuel Presbyterian at<br>10:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary |
| October 11 | Walk for the Hungry   |
| October 25 | Congregational Meeting  |

## Church Work Day

Come help spruce up the church buildings and grounds in time for Kick Off Sunday. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 12. There will be tasks for all skill levels! For more information, contact Roger Denton.

## Dogs on CPC Campus

Recently CPC staff have noticed that more and more dogs are accompanying their humans to meetings at CPC. While CPC strives to be a welcoming community, we do need your cooperation in keeping our campus safe and clean.

Even friendly dogs can be frightening to small children or to the elderly. Dog hair presents a problem to those with allergies. The problem with dog droppings is obvious to all.

All dogs brought to the CPC campus should be on leash at all times. Any hair or droppings must be cleaned up by the person bringing the dog.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## 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.