

Pastor's Annual Report

Scholars debate the exact perimeters of the Baby Boom, though most would agree that it began shortly after World War II and ended sometime in the early 1960's.

No matter which exact beginning or ending dates are accurate, it is pretty clear that Claremont Presbyterian Church is a baby boomer. CPC was born in 1955, exactly the middle of that great mid-20th century phenomenon. It was born at a time when middle class America—and Southern California in particular-- had children and young parents in abundance. California's economy was the envy of the industrialized world. Claremont was growing so fast it was hard to build housing, schools and roads fast enough to keep pace.

Our congregation's ministries and our physical plant were in large part built to fit those mid-twentieth century realities. Though our core ministries have evolved and changed somewhat over the last 57 years, the basics have remained remarkably unchanged. Our context and culture have shifted drastically since 1955, however. The American population is aging; middle class families are having fewer children, and the economy of our region is struggling. Pair these realities with major shifts in culture that are impacting family, community and religious life and it becomes clear that CPC is going to need to do some deep thinking about how we are called to continue bringing Jesus' good news to the world in the decades to come.

During 2011, we continued to be faithful to many of the good things we have always done: excellent worship and music, a dedicated ministry to youth and children, and enthusiastic engagement in community service and social advocacy.

We also began to engage some of the issues we will need to address in a changing world. The Smale Distinguished Visitor committee sponsored two events: one about the future of the church and one about the future of the planet. Both Pastor Sapio and Pastor Supinger participated in the NEXT Church conference in Indianapolis where leaders from all over the PCUSA gathered for generative discussions about the future.

The challenges ahead are real. But so, we believe, is the power of God at work in Christ Jesus who continues to call us to ministries of hope and transformation. Thanks be to God who has given us this ministry.