



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

June 2014



Worship Plans

Sunday, June 1 10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Dr. Tina Blair preaching

Sunday, June 8 10:00 a.m.

Pentecost

Confirmation Sunday

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday June 15 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

Blessing of VBS Volunteers

The People's Choice Sermon Series

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

"Why Does God Want our Worship?"

Sunday, June 22 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

The People's Choice Sermon Series

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

"Sin, Forgiveness and Grace"

Sunday, June 29 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

The People's Choice Sermon Series

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

"How Would Jesus Vote?"

From the Pastor

The People have spoken! Last month we invited the CPC community to suggest topics for a "Peoples' Choice" sermon series for this summer. We had over twenty thoughtful and provocative responses. Some of the suggestions were similar, so we combined them under one heading. This will be an exciting summer to be in worship as we ponder these questions and themes together.

June 15

Why Does God Want our Worship?

June 22

Sin, Forgiveness, and Grace

June 29

How Would Jesus Vote?

July 6

Are Winners Blessed? Are Losers Not?

July 13

Why Does Martha Get Such a Bad Rap?

July 20

What Was Wrong with Cain's Offering?

July 27

Is Heaven for Real?

August 3

What's Up with Angels?

August 10

How Can Christians Talk with Atheists?

August 17

What's the "Right Way" to Interpret Scripture?

August 24

Is There Life on Other Planets? Is God There?

August 31

God: Perception and Revelation

Karen Sapio

Pentecost Offering - June 8

CPC has a long tradition of generous giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the regular PC(USA) offerings that support different aspects of the life of our local, national and international church.

So, what is the Pentecost Offering? It supports ministries to children at risk, youth and young adults, and leadership development at the community level, national level and international level of our church. Forty percent of the offering will stay right here, in our own community, to help support children at risk in our area.

Please bring your Pentecost Offering envelope, filled with your generous contributions, to church on June 8 – Pentecost, and we will see what the Holy Spirit has in store for all of us, including the children here in our own community.

Envelopes can also be found in the pew racks.

Adult Education

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes begin at 9:00 a.m.

June 1 & 8

1. "Questions That Haunt Christianity," explorations of doubt and faith for Eastertide in Room 1.
2. "It's Complicated: Understanding Teens and Social Media" led by Rocky Supinger and high school youth in Room 7.

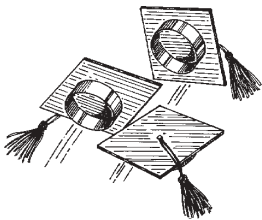
After June 8, Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education will take a summer break and will resume in September.



June 8 Is Graduate Recognition Sunday

Please plan to be in worship on Sunday, June 8, when we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. Alejandro Salas, Carolina Woodcock, Matthew Hughes, and Andrew Atwood will all be graduating from high school in June, and it will be a poignant moment when we bless them and pray God's direction for their next steps.

We also use this Sunday to recognize graduates from college and graduate school known to our congregation. CPC products Jessica Trindle and James Croughan, to name just two, are graduating from college. We invite you to share the information of other graduates with Jo Colclough in the CPC office by sending her an email at jcolclough@claremontpres.org.



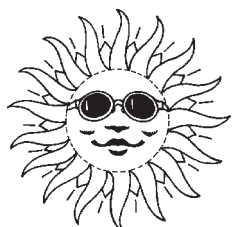
Summer Surprise June 22 - August 10

Each summer we take a break from our primary children's curriculum, *Godly Play*, to focus our attention in a different way. We call our eight-week summer series Summer Surprise! Because we understand that most families need more flexibility in the summer, we design and select curriculum for Summer Surprise that complements our Godly Play curriculum, but one in which each Sunday is a complete lesson. Our hope is that children can find enrichment if they come to all eight weeks in the series, or if they just come to one.

This summer we are learning about stories of children in the Bible including Miriam, young Jeremiah, and twelve-year old Jesus. Our hope is that through the stories and activities the children

will connect their stories to the stories of the children in both the Old and New Testament. We expect that through this identification our children's faith will be enriched. This year, Summer Surprise will run eight consecutive Sundays from June 22-August 10. We meet during worship following "The Time with the Children," and children entering kindergarten - grade 5 are welcome to come and learn.

Youth are encouraged to co-teach with adults during Summer Surprise, and they can do so after a brief training. If you have a young person that would like to help teach one or more of these summer Sundays please contact Krista at krista.wuertz@cst.edu.



Middle School Mission Week 2014	
PLAY WORK LEARN SERVE CONNECT DRIVE	
June 16 - 20 For Rising 6 th - 8 th graders \$75 (for van rental, snacks, T-shirt and Friday Fun)	Join youth from Claremont, Diamond Bar, South Pasadena, Riverside, La Verne and San Marino for a week of fun and service that you won't soon forget!
Projects in Claremont, Downtown LA, Riverside and Pasadena. Friday Fun Day at Raging Waters!	
Register online at http://goo.gl/JMuquH	

Family Community Ministry Events

Throughout the summer we have many opportunities to gather for fun and relaxation together. Our family-community events are designed to be open to anyone who would like to get together for some fun and fellowship. Hopefully the longer days and more relaxed pace of life in the summertime makes the summer an opportune time to join in some traditional summer fun like concerts in the park, minor league baseball games, a trip to the beach, and more. Summer is also an ideal time to invite friends who do not currently attend CPC to come and enjoy some time together. We have events for kids and families scheduled throughout the summer, so please see the schedule and descriptions below.

June 15th – 19th Vacation Bible School

July 26th - Beach Trip

August 5th - Movie and Music in the Park

August 22nd -Quakes Baseball Game

Beach Trip

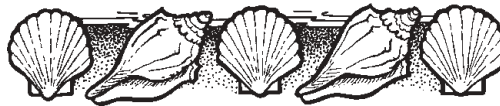
On Saturday, July 26 we will head down to Crystal Cove beach for the day. The section of the beach that we will visit has wonderful tide pools and sandy coves. For those that want to carpool, please let me know. We will plan to leave CPC for the beach about 9:00 a.m. and plan to be back in Claremont by 5:00 p.m. If you would like to come to this event, please RSVP to Krista for more details. You can reach Krista at (909) 624-9693 (ext. 309) or by email krista.wuertz@cst.edu

Quakes Baseball Game

On Friday, August 22 we will meet at the Rancho Cucamonga Epicenter to watch the Quakes play Stockton. There will be hot dogs, ice cream and soda on sale for \$1.00. If you have questions about this event please contact Krista at krista.wuertz@cst.edu or (909) 624-9693 (ext. 309).

Music & Movie in the Park

On the evening of Tuesday, August 5 you are invited to join us at Memorial Park for an evening of children's music and an outdoor movie. The children's, "Crowd", begins at 7:00 p.m., and *The Lego Movie* will begin at dusk. Most often people begin to gather about 6:00 p.m. to enjoy a picnic dinner before the music begins. Be sure to bring blankets and low chairs for your comfort. For more information about this event, please visit this website: <http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/ps.leisurecreation.cfm?ID=1740>.



Vacation Bible School at Claremont Presbyterian Church

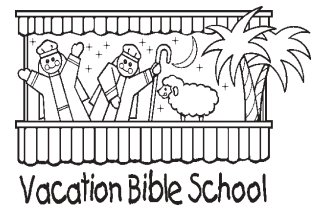
Sunday, June 15, 2014 – Thursday, June 19, 2014

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School is a wonderful experience that we offer each summer to the children from both the church and local communities. At VBS the children who participate are able to experience their faith and to learn more about God's love and care for all of us. Our theme this year is "Wilderness Escape." We will be learning about God's presence with God's people just after their escape from Egypt. Children will get to experience what it continues to mean for God to be with us, provide for us and guide us today.

We have many activities planned each night for children who are entering kindergarten through 5th grade including: *Celebration Time* where the children sing, dance and talk about what they are learning together, *The Israelite Camp* where children do arts and crafts, *Organized Field Games*, and a *Nightly Drama Presentation* where children get to engage actors who are playing Moses and "The Wilderness Whiner." Each night we also all eat a community meal together made lovingly by people from our own congregation, which gives us a special opportunity to fellowship with one another – and also to experience God's care for us through community. Throughout the week, adults from the Claremont Presbyterian Church community will be guiding the children through their activities helping to enrich the experience of VBS for all children. Please consider joining us at VBS this year, as this is a community event in which we all come together to enrich the faith experience of the children of our community.

If you have any questions about VBS or ideas about how you would like to help, please reach Krista at krista.wuertz@cst.edu. There will be more information and opportunities to register soon both on the CPC campus and on the CPC website. Look for us!



People in the Church: It's You!

In recent months you might have noticed that this space in the Communicator is undergoing some changes. In addition to the interviews that have usually graced this space, some individuals have contributed their own reflections on experiences in their lives. Below is one by me, Dick Johnson. This will be my last contribution for some time while I take a sabbatical of sorts. You are encouraged to keep the column alive by contributing your own thoughts and reflections. Contact Jo Colclough to make arrangements. And don't be shy!

Easter 2014

Four years ago Kansas friends Ken and Marion Cott purchased a home in Queretaro, Mexico, a large city about a three hour bus ride north of Mexico City. The experience of Holy Week in Mexico profoundly moved them and they invited me to come witness it. I passed up their offer in 2012 and 2013, feeling unsure of my health. This year I said I would come regardless.

The thought of witnessing so much suffering repelled me. My effort to prepare myself by watching "The Passion of the Christ" was a huge mistake. But on the eve of my arrival I read a section on "Suffering" in Drew Leder's *Spiritual Passages*, which spoke about "dedicated suffering." The term at first mystified me, but there were examples, and I found myself thinking about my own disease (myasthenia gravis), that if it were not for my own spiritual growth that it might well be for the sake of someone else.

During Holy Week in Queretaro we visited numerous churches filled with visual depictions of the crucifixion story. I began to realize that Catholicism had developed during a time of mass illiteracy so these were the essential ways of making the Biblical stories known. Moreover, no story eclipses the crucifixion story.

On Palm Sunday we attended a mass where two priests in tandem read the entire crucifixion story in Matthew's gospel to an overflowing congregation. That in itself was very powerful and impressive.

Maundy Thursday was the day of the

"Seven Alters" journey. Participants are encouraged to visit seven different churches. A small devotional sold at the entrance to the churches suggests things to meditate or think about at each stage of the journey. The churches were overflowing as people entered at the main doors, found a seat if any were available, and eventually passed through a side door. Inside the churches some people were listening to a homily coming over loudspeakers, others were loudly praying the rosary, and some simply sat quietly. There was a general bustle of movement at all times. Our journey of seven churches lasted about three hours and encompassed about three miles.

Good Friday began early outside our door with a neighborhood procession of about 100 people, a priest, and a Jesus figure carrying a cross stopping at each of the 12 "Stations of the Cross." The stations were simply front doors of homes that neighbors had decorated. Other neighbors passed out traditional bread and lemonade. I assumed that all this had been arranged for the people by the church, but learned that our neighbors did it all themselves. What impressed me then and throughout the day was that these people were not simply re-enacting a story. They were living it, taking it into their hearts.

Later that morning we went to La Cruz Church to witness another, larger procession of the Stations of the Cross. Here people wore costumes and carried symbols that represented various gospel stories. Perhaps 30 men and one woman carried crosses made from tree trunks and limbs. There was music and homilies. The homily at the first station emphasized social justice. Again what struck me was the witness of the people, saying by their behavior, "THIS IS REAL. THIS IS OUR STORY."

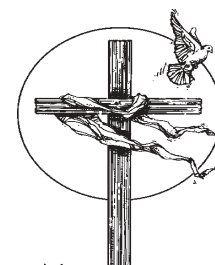
In the late afternoon we went to another location to watch the city-wide silent procession. This had statues but no live actor portraying Jesus. All was silent except for the occasional harsh drumbeat and the sounds of chains dragging along the pavement. The chains

were attached to the ankles of penitents, people who had volunteered to walk barefoot and carry a wooden cross. Some crosses were so heavy that at our location near the beginning of the procession some penitents were already having difficulties. The procession would last for about three hours. Over 500 penitents, most of them dressed in outfits eerily similar to the KKK, were walking in rows, seven abreast, and there were at least 500 other participants in the procession. It took more than an hour for the full procession to pass us. I noticed that the penitents wore paper wristbands which I suppose had medical information in case they needed attention.

One can't help but ask why they are doing this. For some it is perhaps the obvious answer, that they are witnessing to the redemptive suffering of Jesus. In addition I began to suspect that many were carrying more than just a cross. Some may have been carrying the grief for a loved one who had died. Others might be bearing pain which they had caused to others or which they felt themselves. Some might be hoping for a miracle. There are, after all, many things that need to be carried in the search for healing and forgiveness.

I arrived in Mexico fearful that I would be witnessing fanatical and senseless self-flagellation. I left with the feeling that I had instead witnessed something of the vast brokenness of the world and humanity and the attempt, both symbolic and real, to embrace that world, to hold out forgiveness, and to seek a better life.

*Dick Johnson
Easter 2014*



*The Lord lift up
His countenance
upon you
and give you peace.
—Numbers 6:26*



Passing the Salt: How Eating Together Creates Community

This is the title of Rebecca Katz's capstone project for her Bachelor of Arts in 2012 from Western Kentucky University. Her abstract goes on to say "Sharing a meal is a simple, yet sacred occasion. It is a universal act that is important to building relationships within people groups. Intentionally eating together creates time and space to engage in the spiritual and intellectual levels that are unique to human beings. Sharing food cultivates community because the implications of the meal extend beyond the time of eating together."

We would like to create this space with you at CPC this summer. In June and July following the

service I invite you to participate in building relationships with each other. On these Sundays we will share a meal, engage in conversation and have a short program from 11:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

I am organizing these Sundays by way of the interests you have and suggestions you make. Please contact me if you would like to make a suggestion for a topic or if you have a particular subject matter you would like to share. For further information please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 04/30/14	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 159,951	\$166,667
Other Income	30,119	34,367
Bequests/Gifts	5,500	0
Expenses	(196,421)	(209,783)
VARIANCE	(851)	(8,839)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 04/30/14	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 250,442	\$ 241,505
Expenses	(249,132)	(241,505)
VARIANCE	(1,310)	0

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

Conscientious Projector - June 18

Conscientious Projector is a monthly gathering of mindful, passionate people coming together to screen documentaries about important current justice issues, and to discuss these viewpoints from a variety of perspectives. Screenings are free to the public; just bring an open mind and a desire to discuss!

Films are screened in Claremont on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Claremont Forum in the Old Packing House on First Street.



Seventh Annual Bequest Emphasis Sunday

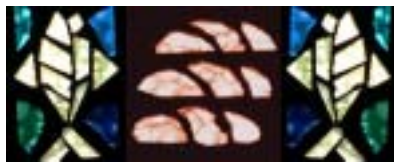
The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee is pleased to announce CPC's Seventh Annual Bequest Emphasis Sunday, to take place on June 29.

During the service on that day, a presentation will be given to illustrate the importance of making special gifts to CPC, over and above our annual pledges for the operating budget. These special gifts can be made during lifetime or through our estates and can direct support to a particular part of CPC's program and outreach or can be left unrestricted. In either case, such gifts further enrich our spiritual life here at CPC and our ministry to a needy world.

At the service on June 29, we will recognize the thirty-two people who, to date, constitute the members of our Loaves and Fishes Society. This is the bequest society of CPC and is sponsored by the Special Gifts and Endowment Committee.

The Loaves and Fishes Society draws its inspiration from John 6:9, the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to sustain the multitudes. Everyone who includes CPC in his or her estate plan is entitled to membership in the Society.

If you have taken this important step and have not yet notified us, please inform one of the Pastors, any member of the Committee, or Jo Colclough in the Church office – we want to add you to our membership rolls! For more information, please pick up a copy of our Loaves and Fishes Society brochure on the patio on Sunday morning or in the Church office. The brochure provides the names of the Committee members.



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

~John 6:9

The current members of the Loaves and Fishes Society are:

Nancy Arce	Gordon Douglass	Jeanne Kennedy	Carol Stubblebine
William Arce	Jane Douglass	Taylor Klingerman	Craig Stubblebine
Sharron Bentley	Joan Harlan	Joanne McCandless	Roger Swartz
Eric Bernal	Frank Hungerford	Kathleen Sigtenhorst	Kent Warner
Teresa Bernal	Chet Jaeger	Pieter Sigtenhorst	Teddie Warner
Doris Chambers	Eileen Jaeger	Betty Springer	Mary Wheeler
Susanne Christian	Delores Kelley	Stan Springer	Dorothy Whitham
John Connelly	Robbin Kelley	Marjorie Stoddard	Rick Whitham

FAQs about Pastor Karen's Sabbatical

When will Pastor Karen be away?

She leaves May 29 and will be back at CPC on Sunday, July 27.

Where will she be?

Pastor Karen will be spending her sabbatical in San Miguel de Allende, a town in the mountains north of Mexico City.

What will she be doing?

She will be guest preacher at the Community Church of San Miguel de Allende, a small congregation of English-speaking expats in San Miguel. You can find out more about the church at their website: <http://communitychurchofsanmiguel.org>. She will also be working on her DMin dissertation project.

Will her whole family go with her?

Clayton and Clara will be able to join her for about one month. Tony will make a ten day visit.

Who said she could do this?

We did! The CPC Personnel Committee adopted a sabbatical policy for pastors in 2013. In 2014, the congregation voted at its annual meeting to grant Pastor Karen a two month sabbatical as part of her terms of call for this year. Karen also received approval from San Gabriel Presbytery to do ministry with the congregation in Mexico during her stay there.

Can we be in touch?

While away, Karen will occasionally post news from her sabbatical on the church Facebook page or website. The church staff know how to reach her if there is an emergency or information that cannot wait until her return. However, she will not be checking her church email or voicemail.

What's in it for us?

The goal of a pastor's sabbatical is for the pastor to return renewed, refreshed, rested and ready to re-engage in ministry with new perspective and passion.

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Return Service Requested

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

Prayer Chain

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. You may contact the church office at (909) 624-9693 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.

Website Photos

Photographs are often taken at church events. These photos may be posted on the church's public website. If you object to having a photograph that may contain your image (or your child's image) posted on the church website, please notify the office in writing.

"Like" Us on Facebook

Did you know that CPC has a facebook page? Look for the Claremont Presbyterian Church page on facebook and click on "like" to begin receiving news feeds about what is happening at CPC.

Be sure to share it with your friends!

Help Support CPCC

The second Monday of each month the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center has a fundraiser at the El Rancho Restaurant on Foothill Boulevard in Claremont. **On Monday, June 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** eat at El Rancho Restaurant and tell them you are with the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center.

The center will receive a portion of the proceeds and you will enjoy a delicious Mexican meal. If you prefer to eat at home you may get your food to go. Thank you for your support!

Summer Communicator

Life seems to slow down in the summer and the church is no exception. That is why there will be only one issue of the *Communicator* for July/August. **The deadline for submission to the summer newsletter is June 15.** Anything you would like the congregation to know about in July or August should be included in that issue. You may email your submission to Jo Colclough at jcolclough@claremontpres.org. If email is not convenient for you, you may also deliver your article or notice to the church office by June 15.

Thank you!