



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2013



December Worship Plans

Sunday, December 1 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

"Watch and Wait: A Christmas Story"

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 8 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

"Watch and Wait:

How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday, December 15 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

"Watch and Wait:

It's a Wonderful Life"

Children & Youth Christmas Pageant

"Calling All Angels"

Sunday, December 22 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CPC Sanctuary Choir presents

Magnificat by J.S. Bach

December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols with

CPC Sanctuary Choir and Soloists

Sunday, December 29 10:00

First Sunday after Christmas

"Watch and Wait:

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

Caroling with the Jaeger Family Brass

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

From the Pastor Advent 2013: Wait and Watch

Two words often come up in relation to the liturgical season of Advent: Wait and Watch. We wait for the coming of the Messiah and we watch for the signs that God's ancient promises are being fulfilled. These themes appear in the scripture readings assigned to the Sundays of Advent, "Watch at all times!" and in the lyrics of some of the great Advent hymns, "Watchers, tell us of the Night."

For anyone who has come of age in the last fifty years, "watching" during Advent has an additional meaning. During Advent we literally watch and re-watch our favorite Christmas movies and television specials. *It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Story, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Santa Clause, A Charlie Brown Christmas* – most of us have at least one movie we just *have* to watch as part of our ritual observance of this season.

Why are these movies so meaningful? Could it be that, though these movies are not overtly "religious" they still portray many of the deep themes of our Advent journey: hope, longing, repentance, transformation, light in the midst of darkness?

This Advent during worship we will place some of our favorite Christmas movies in conversation with some of the great scriptural texts associated with Advent. Perhaps these classic films are a new way that God speaks to us those ancient words of hope and promise.

See you in church!

Karen Sapio

Christmas Joy Offering - December 22

Each year on the Sunday before Christmas, Presbyterian congregations express profound appreciation for our clergy and other servants of the Church by receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. We honor our church leaders both for their faithfulness in tending to our spiritual needs and in recognition of their decision, in many cases, to answer the call to ministry rather than pursue a life of material comfort.

A Presbyterian tradition for nearly 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering gives vital funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as well as to Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools and colleges.

Adult Education

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes and forums meet at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. In addition, there is an Adult Bible Study which meets Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



December 1, 8, and 15 (no Adult Ed on the 22nd)

Finding God in The Movies (Christmas Edition)

Explore Advent and Christmas themes as found in classic Christmas movies like *Miracle on 34th Street* and *It's A Wonderful Life*. Led by movie buff (and professional!) Robbin Kelley and friends, these sessions will be informative, thought-provoking, and inspiring.

December 8, 15

Sunday Evening Bible Study - Room 1

This weekly Bible Study, led by Pastor Karen Sapio, meets Sunday evenings in Room 1 at 7:00 p.m. The group will study the portions of Isaiah that appear in the Scripture readings traditionally assigned to Advent and Christmas. Newcomers are always welcome.

Bach *Magnificat* December 22

The *Magnificat* is a musical setting of “Mary’s Song” found in Luke. These words have been set in many ways by many different composers - from the medieval era to the 21st century. Bach composed his version in 1723 for a Christmas Vespers in Leipzig where he was the Music Director for St. Thomas Church. Compared to his huge settings of the St. Matthew and St. John passion stories and the Christmas oratorio, the *Magnificat* is rather brief. But its shorter length in no way takes away from the drama and joy with which he set the text.

*“The musical setting of the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55) that Bach worked up during that Advent season 273 years ago is intimate, immediate, dense with musical imagery, achingly tender, startlingly powerful – and unique in the long, long catalog of the man’s masterpieces. Literally, yes, unique. Bach never did another piece of music quite like this *Magnificat*. For one thing, it’s dense. In spite of – maybe because of – its small scale, it’s packed with intensity, in a way that

his larger choral works couldn’t be. And each part of it is short. Each verse is set as a separate musical movement, but none of these are built to any sort of standard pattern or form: there are no da capo arias, no recitatives, and no “big” choruses of the sort that he would have used to open a cantata, for example. Each of the twelve movements is a tiny musical gem whose only purpose is to exhibit, with the utmost conviction, clarity, and vividness, its text.”

The work is challenging and exhilarating to sing. The soloists are drawn from the choir and CPC community. The orchestra is made up of Early Music musicians from the greater Los Angeles area. With the exception of the trumpets and oboes, they will be playing on instruments like those Bach would have used.

Please invite your family and friends to join us on December 22 in worship celebrating the season with Bach and his *Magnificat*.

*Jim Michmerhuizen 2005

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. The congregation has the opportunity to share their Christmas spirit with families that might not otherwise be able to celebrate Christmas with gifts by choosing a gift tag or tags from the table which will be on the patio after church on December 1 and at the

Alternative Christmas Market on December 8. Each tag will have the gender, age, size and gift request for a member of a family. 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 15. The gifts will be delivered by Deacons.

If you are unable to shop or if you prefer, monetary donations will also be accepted.

If you would like to help provide poinsettias and greens to decorate our Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas, please use the flower form included with this *Communicator*.

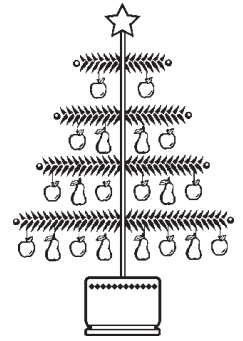


Sunday Morning for Children and Youth

Sunday Mornings there are faith-nurturing activities for children in pre-school through high school all morning long.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Music and Movement for grade 2 – grade 5
Godly Play for age 4 – grade 1
Youth 6th - 8th grade Sunday School Class
Youth 9th - 12th grade Sunday School Class
Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Music and Movement for age 4 – grade 1 (after Time with the Children)
Godly Play for grade 2 – grade 5 (after Time with the Children)
Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k



Godly Play

In the month of December we celebrate the season of Advent in the Godly Play classroom. Each week we light a candle, and tell the story of the anticipation and preparation of the Holy family as they move toward Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. In December, Godly Play meets on the 1st, 8th and 15th. We will not meet on the 22nd and 29th.

Youth and College Christmas Gatherings

CPC's junior high and high school youth will celebrate the joy of Christmas together at their respective Christmas parties.

The junior high Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 22, at 4:30 p.m. in the PYG Room.

The high school party is also on December 22, at 7:00 pm. The location is TBD.

Finally, college students are invited to get together at Pastor Rocky and Meredith's house on Sunday evening, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a fun and relaxing time to reconnect with old friends.

Christmas Breakfast - December 22

Invite your friends and family to join you on **Sunday, December 22 beginning at 8:30 a.m.** for a Christmas Breakfast Social in Fellowship Hall. No reservations are required. This holiday breakfast fellowship was started by the late Daisy Najarian, and has become one of CPC's traditions. This is a great time to share the Christmas spirit with your CPC family.

Hope to see you there!

Advent/Christmas Movie Marathon

You are invited to come to our first CPC Advent-Christmas Movie Marathon on the first day of Advent, Sunday, December 1. Our movie marathon will be held in the PYG room from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Feel free to drop in anytime during the afternoon or evening. All of the movies we screen this day will be part of the Advent-Christmas sermon series this year. Bring some blankets, bring some friends – we will provide movie snacks and drinks. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.

Estimated Start Times

4:00 - *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

5:00 - *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

5:30 - *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

6:00 - *A Christmas Story*

Family Christmas Caroling

Get your ear-muffs on and bring your singing voices because we are going caroling! We will meet in Fellowship Hall at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15**, gather our song books, have a quick warm up and off we will go singing our hearts out. At the end we will have hot cocoa, apple cider and lots of Christmas treats! Please join us for this fun night spreading Christmas cheer with your CPC Family.

Christmas Pageant

Join us at 10:00 a.m. on **Sunday, December 15** when our children and youth will present the annual Christmas Pageant in worship. *Calling All Angels* tells the story of the birth of Jesus from the angels' perspective. It will feature children age 4 through high school.

Alternative Christmas Market in Fellowship Hall following worship from 11:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on December 8.

Those looking for a meaningful gift for family and friends will find it here. Local, national and international organizations and service agencies will be represented. Purchase a heifer for a village, tools and blankets for disaster relief or many other options. You may make a donation to a worthwhile organization in honor of a loved one.



"...You will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."
Luke 1:31

People in the Church: John and Barbara Anderson

Their enthusiasm is palpable, and you quickly see that they are in love with life, with each other, and happy to be connected with Pilgrim Place and Claremont Presbyterian Church. Their lives intertwined in marriage seventeen years ago. They are a truly remarkable couple.

John speaks first. He had a very successful first career as a librarian, including serving as the director of libraries in San Francisco, Knoxville and Tucson. Yet one evening in Tucson he reflected, "I added up the number of church-related meetings I had attended in a month, representing the Presbytery in a number of areas, and it came to 25. I had to ask myself, why am I doing all this?"

Soon after, he represented the Presbytery at a meeting where Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie was the guest speaker. Ogilvie said something that startled John: *"Dare to take on a project that cannot be successful without the direct intervention of God."* The words resonated deeply. "I wonder," John pondered, "is there a place for me in the larger church"? It seemed unlikely. He was, after all, a layperson without any seminary experience. Yet soon he saw a notice that the Presbytery of Santa Barbara was seeking an Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, and, to his surprise, Ruling Elders as well as clergy were invited to apply.

John was one of four candidates invited for an interview. When he saw the names of the other candidates, he knew not to get his hopes up; they were all experienced Presbytery Executives. "I had served on lots of committees and was Vice Moderator/Moderator-elect, but I didn't have those credentials," he acknowledged. To further dampen his hopes, John learned that he would be the first interviewed, always a bad sign. "After the interview, my wife and I drove to Solvang, had a nice dinner, and returned to our hotel around 10. There was a message waiting: 'You have been selected.' I laughed and laughed and laughed." It seemed Lloyd Ogilvie must have been right.

Later a member of the selection committee told him, "We voted once and found ourselves tied between you and another. So we decided to pray. And after prayer we selected you." He paused, and then added, "Of the four candidates, you were the only one who mentioned God."

John said of those years in Santa Barbara, "I never worked harder and I never loved it more." He went on to represent the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii in a number of national and international activities.

Barbara, who is currently writing a memoir that includes her spiritual formation journey, grew up in the pietistic tradition of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant Church. At a very early age she knew she wanted to be a minister, something that was impossible for a woman in her church. She married a UCC minister, had four children, and then after 17 years endured a divorce. With remarkable resiliency she again took up the dream to be a minister, entering Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1975 and receiving ordination on her 40th birthday as a UCC minister in 1978.

Her life, she says, has been punctuated by a series of significant events. Some might call them coincidences, while Barbara thinks of them as synchronicities. In her final year at the seminary Barbara wanted to explore the practice of spiritual direction. She was unaware of any Protestants in the Chicago area who would encourage her, so she asked her advisor if she could apply to a Catholic Retreat Center. His answer: "Barbara, you're 39, you do whatever you want!" So Barbara called the Cenacle Catholic Retreat Center and was amazed to hear the woman at the other end of the phone say, "Please come. We've been looking for a Protestant to be part of our team." There followed more experiences at a second Catholic retreat center community and at the Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C.

Similarly, when at the end of her studies Barbara considered job opportunities and applied for the position of Campus Minister at the University of Arizona. The call came through that she was one of three finalists, was she still interested in the position? "I had never been to Arizona, at that time it seemed like a foreign country," she confessed. So one morning after the children had gone to school, Barbara went upstairs to pray. In the midst of her prayer, she felt led to return downstairs. There the TV had been left on, and the Today Show announced that they were broadcasting from the Kitt Peak Observatory in Tucson. Coincidence? Synchronicity? Barbara was offered the position. Soon she and her four children were in Tucson. She served for the next four years as Campus Minister.

Barbara has long had a strong interest in mind-body-spirit relationships. While in Tucson she began to wonder if there was a way she could encourage that practice. Into her mind popped the name of Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg, a pioneer in Wholistic Health and founder of the Parish Nurse Ministry. She picked up the phone and called him, a perfect stranger, explained the situation in Tucson, and then heard Dr. Westberg reply, "I've been looking for a way to get to the Southwest." He became the resident theologian for the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Synchronicity? Some people might even say "miracle."

Barbara incorporates the roles of mystic, contemplative, healer and minister as she explores God's connection to us. "I think of God as Spirit, as Presence in our own journey, the Light of the world, bringing us home. That Spirit offers peace and tranquility in the midst of our inevitable ups and downs." To nurture the Spirit within, Barbara regularly meditates, studies, and meets with a spiritual director.

In the early 1980's Barbara became the Associate Pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Tucson, where she served for 15 years. Her church, like many in the Tucson area, found people, many of them Salvadoran refugees, appearing at the door asking for aid. John Fife, another local Presbyterian pastor, became active in the Sanctuary Movement to offer aid and unofficial asylum to refugees. "What can I do?" Barbara asked.

(see **Anderson** on Page 5)



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

Anderson (cont. from page 4)

In 1985 she founded Interfaith Community Services, an aid program sponsored by volunteers and Christian, Jewish and Muslim congregations. That program, now with over 60 congregations, 600 plus volunteers and an annual budget over one and a half million dollars, remains a cornerstone of support for needy families in the Tucson metropolitan area. After the attack on the World Trade Center, ICS sponsored interfaith dialogues as well.

Under Barbara's leadership, St. Andrew's became a member of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician, a healing ministry recognized as an extension of regular Christian practice. Barbara made contact with local physicians and began to explore Integrative Medicine. She became the Spiritual Advisor at the Patient Conferences for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, where she worked closely with Dr. Andrew Weil.

Barbara and John connected in 1995, after the death of John's wife. In John's words, "We rapidly fell head over heels in love!" They married in 1996, joining together two families that now contain six children, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They share mutual interests that include opera, music, culture, a love of travel, and commitment to family. In addition they

provide wonderful complements to each other. "John keeps me grounded," Barbara says, as she feels free to explore new forms of faith and meaning. And John, who indeed appears solid and dependable, exults, "She has taught me how to love!"

The Andersons came to Pilgrim Place at the urging of Russ Becker. After visiting local churches John and Barbara chose CPC. Barbara noted, "We appreciate the preaching, the music, the ministry to the young, the interfaith connections, and the mission that the church members are faithfully doing." Recognizing the decline in membership among Presbyterians in America, they wonder what will be the future of the church. After attending the recent NEXT Church West conference held at CPC, John hazards a guess that the church as a whole will become more informal and perhaps place more emphasis on small groups.

What is next in their journey? "Now I don't argue theology," John declares. "Love is the answer. My prayers are pretty much just, 'Thank you, God.'" Barbara echoes, "We live with the mystery of God's love and presence."

John continues, in words that should resonate for us all: *"At our age, time is precious. When opportunities come along, we have to ask, 'Is this a passion? Is this life-giving?'"*

~Dick Johnson

Year-End Giving

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to fulfill our 2013 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2014. If you are in this group, thank you for your support.

For some, however, 2013 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or restricted. If unrestricted, the Session may choose to use your gift to close our 2013 books on a positive note.

If restricted, you may designate your gift to support a particular part of our Church's program and outreach.

You might think of your special gift as a Christmas present to CPC, for all that our Church means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: if your gift is made by December 31, it may help reduce your 2013 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

~The CPC Special Gifts and
Endowment Committee

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$400,326	\$425,000
Other Income	64,767	81,750
Bequests/Gifts	1,500	0
Reserve Transfer	0	0
Expenses	(511,068)	(528,490)
VARIANCE	(44,474)	(21,740)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 591,840	\$ 564,798
Expenses	(601,275)	(563,732)
VARIANCE	(9,435)	1,067

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

Someone

Someone by Alice McDermott is to be reviewed by Elaine Walker on February 8, 2014! The book jacket says, "One Life: its devastating pains and unexpected joys; its bursts of brilliant clarity and moments of profound confusion. This is the subject of *Someone*, Alice McDermott's extraordinary new novel, the first in seven years. Scattered recollections – of a curious childhood, of adolescent sexual awakenings, of motherhood, and, finally, of old age – come together in this resonant story of an unremarkable woman's unforgettable life."

Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

If updating your estate plan is on your year-end "to do" list, be sure to remember CPC in your planning!

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program here 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. Since the founding of the Society in 2008, more than thirty people have become members, by informing the Church that CPC is included in their estate plans. We'd like to welcome you, too!

Questions? Pick up a copy of our bequest brochure in the Church office or at the Information Kiosk on the patio after church any Sunday morning. You'll be glad you did – and CPC will be grateful to you.

~ The CPC Special Gifts and
Endowment Committee

"Like" Us on Facebook

Claremont Presbyterian Church has a Facebook page. You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres>.

If you are already a member of Facebook, use this link, sign in to your Facebook account and click on the "Like" button. (Or you can just search for Claremont Presbyterian and choose the one under "Pages.") News feeds from CPC will now show up on your home page.

This is a great way to keep up with what is happening at CPC and to share what is happening with your friends.



Make Every Second Monday a Fiesta

The second Monday of each month the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center has a fundraiser at the El Ranchero Restaurant on Foothill Boulevard in Claremont. **On Monday, December 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** eat at El Ranchero 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!

Stewardship 2014

Our Stewardship theme this year has been blessings, and we have heard in sermons about blessings in the Bible. We have also shared with each other blessings we have personally seen and experienced.

And just as in God's promise to Abraham and Sarah, "I will bless you.... So that you will be a blessing," you, through your pledges are a blessing and are blessed.

We thank the 128 families who have pledged 78% of our stewardship goal of \$540,000. **But we still have some distance to go, and we need everyone to pitch in.**

Our goal was set so that CPC would have a balanced budget in 2014, freeing our talented and wonderful staff and leaders to go about their ministry, allowing their creativity to flow into leading our church to do God's work and bless us all, rather than cut programs and worry about fundraising.

Pledges make up about 84% of the church's income, so you can see that they are critical to our ministry.

If you have not yet sent in your pledge, we hope you will prayerfully consider what a blessing this church is to you, and that you will give as generously as possible. **We need everyone to participate.**

Additional pledge cards are in the pew racks, and pledge packets are available in the church office if you did not receive one or have misplaced it.

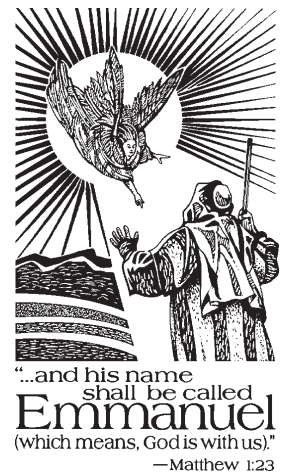
As God did for Abraham and Sarah, God will bless you, and you will be a blessing. Please join us in this important support of our Church's work and witness. Thank you!

~Stewardship Committee:

Sandra Kindler, Hal Lynn,

Teddie Warner, Mike Wigton,

with support from Jo Colclough and Karen Sapio



COMMUNICATOR



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

A Contribution Note

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2013, all donations for 2013 must be either: placed in the offering plate by December 29, 2013, brought to the office by **noon Tuesday, December 31** or postmarked by December 31, 2013. Checks that are placed in the offering plate on January 5, 2014 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2013 even if the check is predated to 2013 or was actually written in 2013.



Please join us to start off
the holiday season!

Traditional CPC Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange

Saturday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Kent & Teddie Warner's
No RSVP necessary – just come!
Questions? (909) 624-9693

PLEASE BRING:

A wrapped, fun, inexpensive
ornament to exchange
(one per person who wants to exchange)
Beverage of your choice

**A hearty Hors d'oeuvre
or Dessert**

Children welcome



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 call 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.