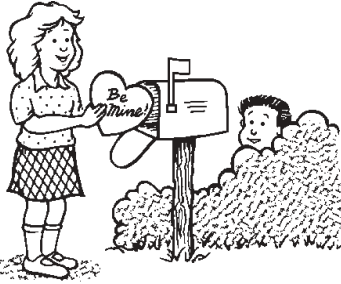




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2013



FEBRUARY

Worship Plans

Sunday, February 3 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
Annual Meeting following worship

Sunday, February 10 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Jazz Sunday
Chet Jaeger and
the Night Blooming Jazzmen
The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Wednesday, February 13 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship service

Sunday, February 17 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Lent

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 24 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Lent

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
Luncheon following worship

From the Pastor

Lent 2013 - A Season of Listening

In the Christian tradition, the season of Lent is a time of reflection and preparation. Spanning the 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, Lent is a season for being attentive to the Holy Spirit as we get ready to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday and, even more, to LIVE in the world as Easter people: people who carry within us the power of resurrection hope and bear that into a world that is always burdened by despair.

This year during Lent, CPC leaders will help our congregation engage in "A Season of Listening." The **purpose** is to build relationships among members and friends of our congregation, to discover what people care deeply about, and to help us clarify our vision for ministry as we move into the future. The **process** will be first to train a group of volunteers in the practice of deep and thoughtful listening, then to invite CPC members and friends to be part of a series of one-on-one meetings and/or house meetings facilitated by these volunteers.

When the process is complete, we hope to have a better idea of where we are headed as a congregation and how God is calling us to live out our faith in ways that really make a difference to the wider community.

On Sunday February 24 there will be a lunch following worship to introduce our Season of Listening and give everyone an experience of what those conversations will be like.

February 10 Is Jazz Sunday!

It's that time of year again! Sunday February 10 will be Jazz Sunday at Claremont Presbyterian Church. We will once again welcome CPC member and Jazz Band leader extraordinaire Chet Jaeger and his Night Blooming Jazzmen. The band will lead our worship music, including a special jazz arrangement for our choir's anthem. Join us for a great way to bring in MardiGras/Shrove Tuesday as we prepare for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 13.



Sunday Morning at Nine

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

The series "Stories of Faith and Justice" which began in January will continue through February 17. It is a weekly conversation with a member of the Claremont community about their experience of practicing their Christian faith in the pursuit of justice. Speakers include Butch Henderson, Joe Hough, John Maquire, Chris Hartmire and Jane Dempsey Douglass.

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 3

On the day when football's last two teams square off for ultimate victory, CPC will join with churches and community groups all over the country to defeat hunger. By bringing with you to church that Sunday extra dollar bills to drop into the large soup kettles that CPC youth will be managing, you can be part of that Super cause. All of the money collected at CPC's Souper Bowl of Caring goes directly to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona to provide food for hungry people. Game on.

Godly Play

On February 3, our lesson in Godly Play will be "The Good Shepherd and World Communion." On February 10, we prepare the children to enter the season of Lent with our lesson, "The Mystery of Easter." When Lent begins we move into our Lenten series that follows different events in the life and work of Jesus that led to the cross. This series is called, "The Faces of Easter." Our lessons on February 17 and 24 will come from our Lenten series. Children age 4 - grade 2 are invited to join us at 9:00 a.m. Children grade 3 - grade 5 are invited to come to Godly Play following the "Time with the Children" in worship and remain in class until 11:15. If you have any questions or would like more information about becoming involved in Godly Play, please contact Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.

Camping Sunday Is February 17

Worship on Sunday, February 17 will lift up camping as a valuable part of our Christian life, both as youth and adults. We will testify to the life-changing encounters had at camp - with God, with brothers and sisters, and with ourselves. Worshipers on the 17th will have a chance to commit to Family Camp in May, as well as summer camps for children and youth.

Hazardous and Electronic Waste Disposal


The County of Los Angeles is holding a collection day for electronic and household hazardous waste. Saturday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. you may take your waste to the Claremont Corporate Yard, 1616 Monte Vista Avenue in Claremont.

Examples of things you may take are paint, household batteries, car batteries, computer monitors and cell phones. Bring your items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers. Be prepared to leave the containers and boxes. The event is open to all residents of Los Angeles County.

Confirmation Update

All fall, a team of youth and adults have been meeting in probing one-on-one sessions to delve into the gospel of Mark and discover God at work in their lives. These confirmation students and their mentors are investing in faith, both their own and that of the whole church, and their work is to all of our benefit. Thank you Clayton Becker and Kent Warner, Nancy Jung and Jeanine Robertson, Sophie Piestick and Meredith Clayton, Jacen Doebler and Stuart Lillich.

The next step in the confirmation begins in March, when youth undertake weekly catechism class. Here they will grapple with the pillars of Christian faith, asking questions of them and discovering their wisdom. Please pray for Nancy, Sophie, Clayton, and Jacen as they continue their confirmation work.



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 13
at 7:00 p.m.
Begin the
season of Lent with
a simple worship service
of reflection and prayer.

Sunday Morning Schedule for Children & Youth

Sunday Mornings there are faith-nurturing activities for children in pre-school through high school all morning long. Godly Play begins again on January 6.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	<p>Music and Art for grade 3 – grade 5</p> <p>Godly Play for age 4 – grade 2</p> <p>Youth Sunday School Class with Larry and Jeanine (grades 6 - 8)</p> <p>Youth Sunday School Class with Irene, Linda and Octavio (grades 9 - 12)</p> <p><i>Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k</i></p>
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	<p>Music and Art for age 4 – grade 2 (after Time with the Children)</p> <p>Godly Play for grade 3 – grade 5 (after Time with the Children)</p> <p><i>Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k</i></p>
11:15 a.m. - noon	Choir for youth 6th grade through high school (every other week)

Distinguished Speaker Series

Progressive Christians Uniting has arranged a series of five lectures by distinguished speakers to be given at five local churches (including CPC) beginning February 24, 2013 and running through April 7, 2013. Tickets for all five lectures are \$40.00. Individual speaker tickets are \$10.00. The speakers, location and lecture subjects are:

Dr. James Hanson, NASA, Author of *Storms of My Grandchildren*

“Global Warming Is Here. It is Worse than it Looks. But There Is a Way Out”

Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont United Methodist Church, 211 Foothill Blvd., Claremont

The Rev. Romal Tune, Author of *God's Graffiti: God's Word Written on your Life*

“The Problem of Mass Incarceration”

Sunday, March 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 676 N. Gibbs Street, Pomona

Bishop Minerva Carcano, Official spokesperson for the United Methodist Church on Immigration

“The Dream Act and a Just Immigration Policy”

Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont Presbyterian Church, 1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont

Dr. Norman Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute, Author, *It's Even Worse than it Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism* (with Thomas Mann)

“It's Even Worse than It Looks, But There Is a Way Forward”

Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 W. Harrison Avenue, Claremont

James Carroll, Boston Globe, Author *Constantine's Sword* and *House of War*

“Toward a Civil Society”

Sunday, April 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at La Verne Church of the Brethren, 2425 E Street, La Verne

Please visit the website www.agendaforapropheticfaith.com for more information and to purchase tickets. Tickets are also available through the CPC church office.



People In the Church: Damon, Sally & Dillon Lopez

If you ask Damon and Sally Lopez, they'll tell you it was God's hand guiding them. And after you hear their story you would be hard pressed to disagree. Why else would a family commute all the way from Ontario to worship at Claremont Presbyterian Church?

On a Sunday in 1997 Damon and Sally set out to find a church where they would like to be married and raise their family, which included Daric, Damon's son (who now lives in North Carolina with his wife and child). They had a list of possible churches that included CPC, but they decided first to try a church in Ontario. Arriving at the church door a few minutes before 9, they found a note that said the church was closed for remodeling but the congregation was worshipping at a location in north Ontario. Jotting down the address, they headed uphill and soon entered another church, only to discover they had somehow wandered into a somewhat different service. Oops! So much for plan A and plan B, now what? It was about 9:30 and there was still time to zip over to Claremont. Plan C, or if you are fond of puns, Plan CPC.

They remember very vividly that Sandy Tice was preaching and, most remarkable, Mel and Vera Smith were talking about God in their lives as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The church itself was wonderful, but beyond that the message they perceived was "God wants you to marry in Claremont Presbyterian Church." They agreed.

Their wedding in 1998, with Sandy Tice officiating, was a bright spot, in some ways a new and purposeful life for both Damon and Sally. Damon grew up in San Dimas, kicked around at different jobs, tried a stint in the military, but by the time he was 30 there was no real direction in his life. Then cancer struck. By the time he was diagnosed the cancer had already metastasized. Surgeons worked very hard to excise the cancer and, almost miraculously, they were successful.

Three years later, in 1993, Damon met Sally at a party. Although he had previously struggled to decide what to do with his life, Damon immediately told friends, "I'm going to marry Sally."

Much later, telling this story, he said, "She saved me."

Sally responded, "God saved him for me."

Sally too grew up in San Dimas. Her roots were Presbyterian, back to her grandparents in the Azusa church. As a child she "was always at

church, always leaned on God." Today she affirms, "The Lord is our center. We are there for Him 24-7."

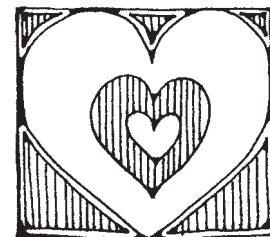
But there were trials too, testing their faith. One year after they married, their first child, a girl, died soon after birth. CPC, earlier scene of a gorgeous wedding, now became the scene of a memorial service led by Sandy Tice, who held up their faith to the congregation as she marveled, "They never asked 'why?'"

There followed a miscarriage. Finally there arrived "our miracle guy," Dillon, whose difficulties forced the doctors to confine Sally to bed after her fourth month of pregnancy. In all of these trials, Damon and Sally told me "our faith carried us through" and "our faith is what gets us through." Sally also saw a blessing, that the trials had deepened her faith and her compassion "so God can use me to be there for other people."

Dillon, now 11, has been in the church since he was born. He credits two good friends, Ben and Noah Hatter, for making him feel welcome since the first day. Like his parents, he finds CPC a wonderful place to nurture his growing faith. Mention of Family Camp brings a flood of memories of wonderful times – the tire swing, baseball, kites, hiking, the creek – "so much fun!" He recalls especially the time Thomas Randles encouraged them to look for geodesic rocks near the creek.

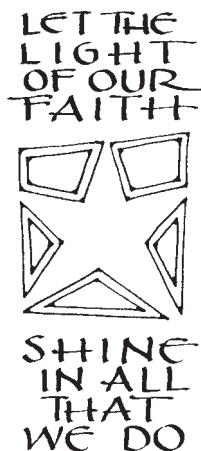
This year Dillon asked if he might continue attending a Christian school. "Public school is ok," he explained, "but there I can't talk about God and I can't carry my Bible." Dillon reads the Bible every day. Despite the financial burden, Damon and Sally decided to support his request.

How does God communicate? "God puts things in my path that I see as signs," Sally explains. "He speaks to me through people." She would probably also acknowledge that God uses her to speak to other people. Last July she and Dillon were driving to visit the Hatters when right in front of them they saw a car hit two elderly pedestrians. "I saw them fly through the air," Dillon recalled. Sally immediately stopped her car, pulled out her phone and dialed 911 as she rushed to the side of the two motionless people. Afraid to move them, "I began praying." The man opened his eyes. He looked over at his motionless wife and cried, "Oh, no no no!"



*with
God's
Word
in your
hearts*

(See **Lopez** 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

Lopez (Cont. from Page 4)

The paramedics arrived. Meanwhile Sally tried to comfort the man, who seemed to have no major injuries, and asked if he had relatives that she could call on her phone. "We have no one," the man murmured. Soon an ambulance took the couple to a hospital.

After the ambulance left, Sally decided she needed to find the man and sit with him while he learned the fate of his wife. After several calls, she located the hospital, Arrowhead Regional, and there she found the man. His wife had broken several ribs and other bones, but the doctors predicted a good recovery for her. Dumbfounded to see Sally again, realizing the effort she must have made to find him and be with him at such a difficult time, he wondered aloud, "Who would do this for me?"

"I told him about God and me," Sally said. "I don't know if they were religious or not. I totally believe it was God's will" to be put there to help those people.

The night of the accident, Sally received a call from the CPC Nominating Committee asking if she would once again serve as a Deacon. That too seemed to her a special sign from God. First she prayed for guidance.

Then she accepted.

What impressed me most about the Lopez family was their steadfast faith. It reminded me of a passage I had read recently: *"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me..The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever."* Ps.138:8-9

~~by Dick Johnson

Make Each Second Monday a Fiesta



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, February 11 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!

Conscientious Projector

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! Screenings in Claremont are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street (in the old packing house.)

Annual Meeting

Claremont Presbyterian Church's Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place following worship on **Sunday, February 3**. We will review the annual reports from various ministries, hear a report from our 2013 Stewardship team and receive the 2013 Budget from our Session.

FAN Symposium

Feminist Agenda Network (FAN) invites you to a symposium on women and the economy. "Collective Hope: Building a Future for Women" will be held at Claremont Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, March 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The keynote speakers are the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, author of *Confessing the Beatitudes*, and Dr. Jane Douglass, who will speak about the Accra Confession. The cost of the symposium is \$20.00. For more information please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/12	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$514,719	\$517,000
Other Income	91,439	88,700
Bequests/Gifts	50,265	
Reserve Transfer	0	0
Expenses	(620,183)	(625,356)
VARIANCE	36,240	(19,656)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/12	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$682,310	\$614,854
Expenses	(658,001)	(614,770)
VARIANCE	24,309	84

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

Session Digest

At its December meeting the Session:

- Shared a meal together to celebrate the season
- Reflected on the contributions of our elders going off session: Tim Bovard, Ruth Currie, Jane Dempsey Douglass, Jeanne Smith Master, Scott Randles, and Dakota Santana-Grace.
- Welcomed and heard of the hopes of our new elders who were able to make this meeting: Tom Bleakney, Sandra Kindle, Gail Duggan, and Barb MacKenzie
- Discussed and planned for January activities involving examining new officers, welcoming new members, and filling vacancies

*Steve Sittig,
Clerk of Session*

Beautiful Chancel Flowers

With the new year beginning, it is time to think about how the Chancel might help us celebrate the blessings and teachings of Jesus Christ. Consider selecting a Sunday to donate flowers which will honor, celebrate and/or remember a loved one. Sherwood Florist does an outstanding job creating beautiful Chancel arrangements specific to the CPC donor's request for colors and flowers.

Stop by the Narthex Bulletin Board for an available date on the Flower poster. Complete a Flower Donation Sheet and drop it in the collection plate or by the office. If you have any questions contact the church office at (909) 624-9693. Kim Brinegar will confirm the availability of your selected date and work with you to create a special floral arrangement that will enhance the beauty and glory of each Sunday's worship service.



Presbyterian Women
of the Claremont Presbyterian Church
invite you to

A Chinese Luncheon
with
Elaine Walker
Reviewer Internationale

The Bonesetter's Daughter
by
Amy Tan

Saturday, February 9, 2013
12:00 noon

Reservations: Pat Beswick
\$15.00

Fellowship Hall
Claremont Presbyterian Church
1111 N. Mountain Avenue
Claremont, CA



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*: February 15

“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.

Prayer Chain

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. 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.