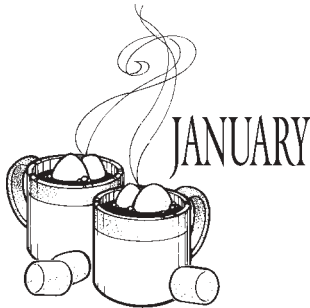




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

January 2017



Worship Plans

Sunday, January 1 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

Service of Healing, Wholeness and Hope for
the New Year
Luke 2:21-38

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

Sunday, January 8 10:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:1-22

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

Sunday, January 15 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 4:14-30

The Rev. Dongwoo Lee preaching

Sunday, January 22 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 5:1-11

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

Sunday, January 29 10:00 a.m.

Interfaith Interchange with Temple Beth Israel

Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz and
the Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

From the Pastor

I have a friend who was planning to move to a new town with his family right after this past Christmas. I reminded him that he is in good company. In Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus, the wise men's visit to the Child was followed swiftly by an angel's warning to Joseph to take Mary and the child and get out of Bethlehem as quickly as possible.

It always seems a shame to interrupt the lovely story of the Nativity with such a harsh and reality. And yet...it is this part of the story that reminds us how close the gospels are to the reality of our world: disruption, fear, anxiety, danger, and always, always a journey. The gospels include very few stories of people staying put. From the opening chapters of the journey to Bethlehem and the flight into Egypt, the gospels tell the stories of people on the move. Jesus and his disciples travel the countryside teaching and healing. Samaritans travel the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Prodigal children leave home, wander in strange lands, and return.

Every new year we reflect that, in spite of our hopes and plans, we really have no idea where the dawning year will take us; what road we may find ourselves travelling in wonder, fear, gratitude or all three. This year, that is particularly true as so many are making predictions about what this year will bring.

I have read that there are two ways of making a journey: as a tourist, or as a pilgrim. Tourists take journeys to be entertained and served. Pilgrims take journeys seeking transformation and to be of service to others. How will you journey through 2017?

Claremont Presbyterian/Temple Beth Israel Annual Interfaith Exchange

Our two congregations will continue our tradition of an annual interfaith exchange. Begun in the mid 1980s, our exchange was a ground-breaking initiative for interfaith work in Claremont. Today, we continue this annual event as a way of keeping our congregations in conversation and keeping our base for other interfaith work strong. This year's activities include:

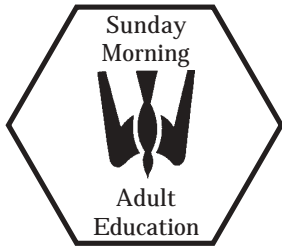
January 21: Concert by Pursuit of Harmony at Mudd Theater (see details in this newsletter)

January 29: TBI members and leaders come to CPC 10:00 a.m. worship

February 3: CPC members and leaders attend Friday Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. at TBI

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Two separate programs are available which it is hoped will meet the diverse needs of the congregation. One will meet before worship and the other will meet after worship.



9:00 a.m. in Room 1

"CPC Coffee & Twitter." This program focuses on dealing with current social, political and international issues. It provides an opportunity to share our various experiences in the world to strengthen our sense of justice and love and keep us asking how to live in this world as Christians.

01/01 No class

01/08 Walls, Bridges - Keynote Speaker

01/15 Walls, Bridges - Race, class, ethnicity, immigration

01/22 Walls, Bridges - Gender, sexual orientation

01/29 Walls, Bridges - What 2017 looks like to 20 year olds

11:15 a.m. in the CPC Library

A Bible study which leads people to learn more about the Bible, Christianity and its theological aspects can deepen the faith that we confess and help mature our Christian spirituality. We are using the curriculum of "Living the Word: Small Group" and "Life Mosaic" that correspond to the "Narrative Lectionary" that we are following in worship. Every week's material will correspond to the sermon on Sundays. Please note there is no Bible Study on January 1.

If you have a question, please talk to the Rev. Dongwoo Lee. (revdongwoolee@gmail.com)

Claremont Presbyterian hosts Missional Skills Course sponsored by San Gabriel Presbytery starting February 5

Did you know...

- Over 200 million Americans are not active in any kind of faith community?
- The fastest growing "religious" group in America are the Nones – those who claim no faith orientation?
- Traditional church strategies for engaging new comers are very ineffective for millennials and many other unaffiliated people?

This winter San Gabriel Presbytery is offering a training course to help those concerned about these trends. Missional Life Skills helps church members learn skills that cross-cultural missionaries have practiced for decades. These skills include:

- Beginning outreach by joining people where they are instead of waiting for them to visit your church
- Learning what is important to this network of people and what their deepest concerns are
- Finding ways to help the group live their values and address their concerns
- Finding opportunities to talk about spiritual questions and practice spiritual disciplines
- Discerning what kind of community of worship and practice might be trying to emerge



This class will meet from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in February. For more information, see our church website or contact Pastor Karen Sapio.

Service for Healing and Wholeness in the New Year

Our worship on New Year's Day will include both the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper and an opportunity for those who wish to come forward for prayers for healing and wholeness.

Sundays for Children, Youth and Young Adults

Each Sunday morning child care will be available for infants and toddlers up to 5 years of age during both the 9:00 and 10:00 hours.

- ◆ Youth from 6th - 12th grade will meet for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ Preschool Sunday School meets from 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. in the nursery.
- ◆ During the 10:00 worship hour children grades K - 5 will be excused from worship following the "Time with the Children" to go to Godly Play and Creative Expression.
- ◆ Youth Group for junior high and senior high school students meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ College and Graduate School Age Drop-In Fellowship Group meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

We are pleased to confirm our 2017 International Youth Trip to Peru for High School Youth from San Gabriel Presbytery!

Location: Our work project is located in one hour outside of Cusco, Peru, in the rural town of Urubamba, nestled in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. There is an orphanage housing 30 children and the site recently had a Living Waters for the World water purification system installed. Our youth group will teach a clean water module about germs and hygiene using the Living Waters for the World VBS curriculum. In addition, we will put in some physical labor fix up the orphanage. Since this location is near Manchu Picchu, we will take time to climb the mountain and add a few tourist activities.

Dates: Leave LAX, midnight, Friday July 28 return August 6, 2017. If you know you want to go but have a conflict, or a preference to leave and return by, let us know because we could still adjust the schedule by a few days earlier or later.

Cost. Approximately \$1500 per person. Our goal is to seek grant support and raise funds so that each student will play only \$350-\$400 out of pocket.

Safety: Since this is a work trip, our clothing and

activities are sensible and conservative, which also keeps us safe. Peru is safer than the USA for gun violence and terrorism and is safer than Paris or Italy for tourist issues like purse snatchers. The Zika virus is not a concern because we are at an altitude too high for mosquitoes. However, there are health concerns like altitude sickness, headaches and stomach bugs. There is medicine, and drinking bottled water helps, but sickness can happen. If it does, expect to spend a morning or evening in bed resting. This trip will involve walking at high altitudes, so good cardio health and sensible walking shoes are helpful.

Participants: We are planning on a small group of about 20 participants, plus adult chaperons. Priority is given to youth in grades 9-12 from congregations in San Gabriel Presbytery. Young adults who have graduated high school and are connected to a local Presbyterian congregation may apply to serve on the adult leaders team.

For more information contact the church office at (909) 624-9693. Applications are due January 30.



Waffle Church!

On Sunday, January 22 at 10:00 a.m. we will have our first Waffle Church at CPC! We will gather for worship in Fellowship Hall for a service that lifts up children's leadership and participation. Waffle Church is made of songs, stories, the love of Jesus, and maple syrup!

A Note from the Property & Finance Commission

Due to a combination of age, disease and drought, we have had to remove the 3 Maple trees that have graced the entrance to our Sanctuary and upper patio for the last 60+ years. We'd like to get the congregations' input on what to replant in these areas. Do you have ideas about what you'd like to see at the Church entrance going forward?

Please contact the church office or email me at janetsiedschlag@gmail.com with suggestions, sketches or other ideas.

Keep in mind that plantings should be drought tolerant, so that we can continue on our journey to environmental sustainability. Use your imagination; it's a blank slate right now!

Update on the Kanjo Family

In August of this year the Abdul Kanjo family landed at LAX to a small welcome committee and began a giant step in a new chapter of their lives. They had been living in Jordan for the past two years after fleeing violent conditions in their community of Homs, Syria. Currently living in Pomona, the family is becoming more a part of our community every day. The youngest member, Abdul-Rahman (7) is learning at a rapid rate at Mt. View Elementary school where he attends 2nd grade. He is a bundle of energy and never seems to slow down. Daughters Rama (16) and Byan (15) are studying at Claremont H.S. and both progressing with their English skills by the week. They too are becoming accustomed to the rigors of school, homework, English learning and being part of some social circles. Amer, (21) is working at a Syrian Bakery in Glendora. While he does not get paid by his 'employer', Amer is working toward job skill acquisition that will prepare him for paid work in the near future. Amer studies English at Mt. San Antonio College and is progressing well. Abdul and Maysaa keep the household in order while attending ESL classes at Claremont Adult school 5 mornings per week. Abdul's goal is to learn enough English quickly to become more employable and soon find work. Maysaa spends some time every day cooking wonderful dishes for her family, and to share with visitors. If you drop by their apartment at about 4:00pm any day, you will likely be fed a delicious and elaborate Syrian dinner, whether you were invited or not! Hospitality is a strong suit of all our Syrian refugee friends. The Kanjo family is connected to the Islamic Center of Claremont (ICC) where they attend prayers several days per week. They also take part in other activities at the mosque.

Abdul Kanjo is one of 17 siblings, some of whom live in the U.S., while many live in Syria, Jordan or other parts of the world. There are family connections abounding among the 10 Syrian families in our area, so their support network is strong. The refugee welcome team has spent many hours caring for the basic needs of the Kanjo family and now we are seeing a distinct movement toward a more independent household. While we still are involved with advising, transporting to some appointments and helping to navigate bills and other quirks of our American economy, the social aspects of our

relationships are beginning to flourish in a deeper and more meaningful way. Those of us who have been very much involved in this resettlement effort, feel blessed and honored to call the Kanjo family our friends.

Thanks to the Claremont Presbyterian Church congregation for your collective prayers and other support for the work of refugee welcoming in the Pomona Valley. It is truly a community effort that can't be done only by a few people. The Kanjos tell us how welcome they feel after a difficult start to their journey to the U.S. They know that we stand by them and with them as they become a refreshing new part of our community.

Abdul and Amer are still in search of employment that will allow them to meet household expenses and relinquish the need for public assistance. Abdul was a business owner and truck driver in Syria. Amer was a painter in Syria and has done some painting jobs here in Pomona.

Another of Abdul Kanjo's siblings is due to arrive in the U.S. within the coming 2-3 months. A new refugee welcome team is being established to help with needs of that family. If you have any information about job prospects or if you would like to volunteer to work with new refugee arrivals, you may contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.



*Let us kneel before
the Lord, our Maker!
Psalm 95:6*



Jazz Vespers: Holy Inspiration on Sunday Evening January 29, 6:00 p.m.

In the Christian tradition, Vespers is a time of prayer as the sun sets. Sunday Vespers gathers those seeking wisdom, inspiration and strength for the coming week. Jazz vespers adds music to the mix to lead us into deeper contemplation and joy.

Excellent musicians from the California Jazz Arts Society will share their gifts in helping to lead this service.

An Invitation to PW Book Review and Tea

CPC Presbyterian Women extend a cordial invitation to a Book Review and Tea on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The selected book, *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson, is set in an English village and begins during the summer of 1914. Elaine Walker and Leanne Kerchner will explore characters, themes, and author insights. Molly Arboleda, well-known Claremont High School teacher, will provide historical context for the novel. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations, contact the church office at (909) 624-9693. Advance donations will not be required. A free-will offering to benefit CPC mission partnership will be accepted during the event.



Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 11/30/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 419,263	\$ 437,250
Other Income	67,051	88,091
Bequests/Gifts	5,000	0
Expenses	(510,865)	(525,392)
VARIANCE	(19,551)	(51)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 693,739	665,130
Expenses	(675,195)	(665,130)
VARIANCE	18,544	0

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

Claremont Presbyterian Church is excited about this opportunity to reach out beyond those we see Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Plans are in the works to make Jazz Vespers a monthly opportunity for contemplation and inspiration for everyone.

Souper Bowl of Caring in February

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar directly to a local charity of their choice.

Your CPC youth will be collecting donations following worship on Sunday, February 5. All funds collected will be sent to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona to provide food for hungry people.

Please give generously.

CPCC Fundraiser at El Ranchero

On the second Monday of each month you have an opportunity to support the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center. El Ranchero restaurant at 984 Foothill Boulevard in Claremont has graciously agreed to donate a portion of the receipts one night each month to the Children's Center. **All you have to do is go to El Ranchero on Monday, January 9 between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. and tell them you are with CPCC** (Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center.)

You may eat at the restaurant or take your food to go.



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

Pastor
Karen Sapio

**Interim Associate
Pastor**
Krista Wuertz

Adult Education
9:00 a.m.

Church School
10:15 a.m.

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

Companions on the Inner Way Retreat - Liberation Spirituality

Companions on the Inner Way's annual Southern California retreat will this year feature Brian McLaren as the keynote speaker. Details about Brian, his topic and the retreat are on the flyer that's included in this Communicator.

Carolyn Foster, Director of the Companions program, wrote this about Brian McLaren and the upcoming retreat: *Brian was our presenter at our northern California retreat several years ago, and I don't think I've ever been as riveted as I was by the combination of his deep theological understanding and his warmth, humor, and eagerness to engage with us. He in turn was delighted by the Companions community and responded immediately to my invitation to return. His topic of Liberation Spirituality draws on ideas from his new book and will, I believe, energize and inspire us.*

The Latest

Claremont Presbyterian Church is now sending out a weekly email update for last minute news and announcements. The email is called "The Latest." You can sign up to receive "The Latest" several different ways.

One way is to go to the church website at www.claremontpres.org and look in the bottom left corner of the home page. Forms to sign up appear on other pages of the website but usually on the bottom right.

The church Facebook page has an Email Signup App. You may also contact Jo Colclough in the church office at jcolclough@claremontpres.org and tell her you would like to subscribe.

Progress in Capital Campaign Projects

We've moved back into the renovated Chapel! Stop in to appreciate this new worship space, perfect for small services, vespers and discussions. The new chairs can be stacked so Godly Play can take place on Sunday mornings and for the Children's Center. And lovely new closed cabinets keep the Godly Play materials safe while others use the Chapel. The pull-down screen adds flexibility of use, from showing slides to projecting hymns.

Our committee gathered in the Chapel after our November meeting and prayed for all of the New Beginnings that will occur there in the coming years.

Brand new 55" HDMI televisions have been installed in Room 1,3, 4 and 7 and are wi fi enabled, making security an important issue if using those rooms. Please be sure to lock up!

All of this is made possible by your generosity to the Capital Campaign and your faith in the future of Claremont Presbyterian Church for the next 60 years. Your timely payment of your Campaign pledges is truly taking CPC to New Beginnings.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact anyone on *The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee*: Eric Bernal, Geri DeMasi, Dee Kelley, Joan Leibeck, John Loper, Sacha Lord, Karen Sapio and Teddie Warner.

Attending a Companions retreat provides the opportunity for spiritual growth and includes quiet time with God, meaningful daily study, reflection and worship and the opportunity to make new friends from other Presbyterian congregations.

We hope that a group from CPC will be able to attend this retreat during the week of March 5-10. If you have questions after you read the flyer, check out the Companions website, www.cotiway.org or speak to Jeanine Robertson. There are limited scholarship funds available through the church office. You can register online at www.cotiway.org or fill out and mail in the registration form. Please let the church office know you are registered so that we can plan to attend as a group.



Monthly Bible Study for All

Presbyterian Women invite all interested persons (and all includes men!) to attend a Bible Study led by our own Bear Ride, former Associate Pastor at CPC the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 7 at CPC.

Who Is Jesus? On the way to Caesarea Phillipi with his disciples, Jesus asks, "So what is the word on the streets? Who do people say I am?" The author of this study prays that in the course of the nine monthly discussions you will find your own voice.



COMMUNICATOR



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

“Like” Us on Facebook

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.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports by all Commission, Committee and Board Chairpersons are due by Sunday, January 15. Please send your report to Joan Leibeck, CPC Office Manager. You may email the report to Joan@claremontpres.org.

2017 Pledge Envelopes

If you have submitted a pledge for 2017 and indicated that you will pay weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

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 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.