



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

July/August 2013

## From the Pastor

In last month's edition, we asked for your suggestions for a "People's Choice" summer sermon series. Many of you responded – so we are now ready to unveil the chosen topics as well as the schedule for our summer series.

Didn't get your suggestion to us in time? Keep it handy. We may do this again next summer!

### **July 7: Who Do People Say that I Am? - Karen Sapio preaching**

When Jesus asked his disciples this question, he got several different answers. This suggestion came from a CPC member who recently read an article on what kinds of answers people are giving to this question in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and was intrigued by the variety of their responses.

### **July 14: Is Faith a Gift from God? - Karen Sapio preaching**

Why do some people seem to embrace faith easily while others struggle? Is it a gift? From whom? If it is a gift, why do some seem not to receive it?

### **July 21: Is Atonement Really Necessary? - Karen Sapio preaching**

Two separate responders asked us to unpack the central Christian doctrine of atonement. Do any of the traditional understandings of atonement make sense for the modern (or postmodern!) world?

### **July 28: What Is Grace? - Karen Sapio preaching**

One responder posed this question: We use the word "grace" a lot in church circles, but do we have any kind of understanding of what grace really is?

### **August 4: What's Up with Leviticus?? - Rocky Supinger preaching**

Another responder wants to know how a 5,000+ year old legal code can have any relevance for people today.

### **August 11: Please Explain How the Meek Will Inherit the Earth - Rocky Supinger preaching**

A young responder has trouble making sense of the Beatitudes – and this one in particular.

### **August 18: Can God Lead Us into Temptation? - Karen Sapio preaching**

One responder pointed out that to pray for God NOT to lead us into temptation seems to imply that there might be times when God DOES lead us into temptation. Is that a correct deduction?

### **August 25: What's with All the Violence in the Bible? - Karen Sapio preaching**

The Bible would definitely receive at least a PG-13 rating for violence. Why is there so much violence in the Bible and does that contribute to violence in our society?

### **September 1: How Do We Live into Community? - Karen Sapio preaching**

For our last Sunday in this series, we will respond to the suggestion that we have a sermon on how we can strengthen CPC as a community while at the same time forging stronger ties with the other two congregations that share our campus.

*Karen Sapio*

## CPC Youth Join Peers of Thousands at Triennium

On Monday, July 15, CPC high school students will join a group of 19 youth and adults from the San Gabriel Presbytery in travelling to the 2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. This landmark Presbyterian youth conference happens once every three years on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and it involves over 5,000 Presbyterian young people from across the country and even across the world (more on that in a minute).

CPC students Thomas Randles, Clayton Becker, Sophie Pielstick, Nancy Jung, and Angel Ku have been selected to participate in the four-day event. In addition to these students, our delegation will also welcome Abel Sanchez Cruz, a young adult from the Synod of Ayacucho in Peru. Abel met some of CPC's youth last summer when they travelled to Peru, and now he's making his first trip to the United States to be part of our presbytery's Triennium delegation.

Abel will arrive in Los Angeles on Thursday, July 11 and be our guest in worship on Sunday, July 14. Please join us that Sunday to welcome Abel and to commission him and all of our students to represent our church at Triennium.

Also, it's not too late to support this life-changing experience for our students. Monies are still needed to cover costs related to registration and airfare, both from Lima to Los Angeles, and from L.A. to Indianapolis. If you'd like to support our youth in this way, checks can simply be made out to Claremont Presbyterian Church with "Triennium" included in the memo line.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

Claremont Presbyterian Church will have a booth in Memorial Park during the citywide Fourth of July celebration. We will also be marching with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, GPIB Indonesian Fellowship and Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center in the Claremont Fourth of July Parade.

Please drop by our booth in Memorial Park – and plan to walk with us in the Parade! We will be gathering at our parade staging area at 3:30 p.m.

## Summer Nursery Hours

During the summer months nursery care is available during the worship hour and fellowship time following worship (10:00-11:30 a.m.) each Sunday. During the summer, staff members and volunteers offer care in the nursery to children ranging in age from infants to children entering kindergarten. If you would like more information about the nursery care at CPC, please contact Krista at [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org).

## Sunday Morning at Nine

Adult Education classes and forums will take a summer break.

## Backpack Sunday Is August 18

Each year your CPC Deacons organize a Backpack Sunday to supply backpacks filled with school supplies for our adopted school, Oakmont Elementary School in Claremont. Your generous donations make this a reality. Backpack Sunday will be August 18 this year. Stay tuned for more details.

## Produce Table

Is your garden producing abundantly? Do you have more tomatoes, lettuce, eggplant, lemons, etc. than you can possibly consume yourself? Bring your garden surplus to church on Sunday and put it on our CPC Produce Table on the patio. Produce on the table is available to anyone who can use it. Anything extra will be donated to a local food bank.

## Summer Surprise

Godly Play during the 9:00 hour had its final meeting for the school year on June 2. Children entering grades 1 - 5 are now encouraged to participate in Summer Surprise. Taught during the worship hour following the "Time with the Children," Summer Surprise will continue through August 4.

This year our focus for our eight-week Summer Surprise series is prayer. Together the children are going to have many opportunities to engage prayer in multifaceted and creative ways. We are exploring prayer in the Bible, and we will talk about the ways in which prayer holds meaning for individuals and for communities. Some of the books we will be using in this series include:

*Psalms for Young Children*

*Praying in Color*

*Images of God for Young Children*

*Journey to the Heart: Centering Prayer for Children*

*Writing to God: Kids' Edition.*

If you have any questions about Summer Surprise or would like to help teach this curriculum, please contact Krista at [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org).



## CPC Summer Youth Calendar

### Movie Night

**Monday, June 24th, 8:00 pm**

Bring a blanket and some movie munchies to enjoy some cinema on the CPC north lawn

In addition to camp, VBS, jr. high work week, and Triumphant, check out these great gatherings for CPC students\* this summer.  
\*youth entering 6th-12th grade in the fall of 2013

### Board Game Banana Split Bonanza—Monday, July 1, 7:00 pm

Bring a favorite board game and your ice cream eatin' game face

### Day at The Beach—Saturday, July 27th, 9:00-4:00

Sun, Surf, and Celebration at Corona Del Mar. What a way to spend the day.

### Tar Pit N' Picnic—Saturday, August 3rd, 9:00-2:00

An expedition to the La Brea Tar Pits followed by a picnic in Hancock Park

### Hike—Saturday, August 17, 8:00-3:00

Bring lots of water and comfy shoes for this all day trek in the wild. Location TBD

## Summer Concerts in the Park

This summer CPC is going to the park, joining the thousands of local residents who enjoy live music on Monday nights in Memorial Park from July-September. Beginning Monday, July 8, the Claremont Summer Concert Series will gather families and friends of all ages on blankets and lawn chairs to share picnics and enjoy a variety of musical genres.

Come join the party! If you'd like to be CPC's host for one of the concerts and facilitate a gathering of CPC folks in a common lawn spot, call Pastor Rocky to sign up.

Here's the summer concert lineup:

July 8	LCR	Classic Rock
July 15	Cold Duck	70's Top 40
July 22	Brian Lynn Jones and the Misfit Cowboys	Country
July 29	The Ravelers	Classic Rock
Aug. 5	Pop Gun Rerun	80's
Aug. 12	Give Up the Junk	Pop/Jazz Funk
Aug. 19	Fab 8	Beatles
Aug 26	Night Blooming Jazzmen	Dixieland Jazz
Sept. 2	The Answer	Classic Rock

Remember: Bring a picnic dinner, blankets and a lawn chairs. Dogs, alcohol, and smoking are not allowed. See you in the park!

## Let's Go to the Beach, or the Ball Game!

Family Ministry events at CPC are designed to be open to anyone who would like to join together for fun, fellowship and service. Hopefully, the pace of life in the summer makes this an ideal time for you to join with us for some traditional summer fun. Summer is also an ideal time to invite family friends who do not currently attend CPC to join with our church family for fun and fellowship! Our events this year are back by popular demand! In July we are going to the beach, and in August we will take in a minor league baseball game.

On Saturday July 20 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. We will plan to leave CPC for the beach about 8:30 a.m. and be back in Claremont about 6:00 p.m. If you would like to come to this event, please RSVP to Krista for more details. You can reach Krista by email at [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org) or by telephone at (909) 624-9693 (ext. 309.)

On Friday August 30 we will meet at the Rancho Cucamonga Epicenter to watch the Quakes play the JetHawks. There will be hot dogs, ice cream and soda on sale for \$1.00. If you have questions about this event please contact Krista by email at [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org).





## People in the Church: Duane Bidwell

*“Everything you are doing is meritorious. None of it is good.”*

What? Did you hear that right? Sounds serious, doesn't it? How would you respond if someone you greatly respected said that to you?

Listen...

These words were said to Duane Bidwell. They came at a time of questioning in his life. And they became an impetus for a profound shift in direction. More on that later.

Duane grew up in Illinois. His parents at one time were owners of a restaurant and bar on the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana – a restaurant that his great-grandparents and grandparents had also owned. That experience led Duane's practical-minded father to warn Duane about associating with those academic types, yet simultaneously encourage him to develop his mind. For as long as he can remember, Duane wanted to be a writer. Being a writer was ok, his father thought, but only if it paid money. One summer he told Duane that he must get a job and earn money. Duane, who as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader had already won a city-wide contest in story-writing, decided to write stories and send them to magazines. The money trickled in, not much, but both father and son were encouraged. The most likely career appeared to be journalism, and after high school Duane in 1984 headed for Texas Christian University on a full merit scholarship to study journalism.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote a famous letter about the head and the heart and the difficulty of joining the two. Duane's head was certainly in journalism, but where was his heart? He had been baptized Presbyterian. His parents rarely attended church, a practice that diminished further after Duane, who had been taught to speak his mind, disagreed with the minister's sermon and told him so at the door. “Church did not speak to me,” he noted, despite the fact that during high school he dated the local Methodist minister's daughter. What did? Tramping through the fields, exploring the gravel pit on the farm where he grew up, Duane had sensed a presence, what he called “a sense of something bigger...” Seeking a spiritual experience that fed his heart, Duane began attending the silent worship meetings of the Quakers when he was 16. The practice of meditation intrigued him. As a freshman at TCU he immediately tried to take a course on Buddhism but was told it was restricted to upper class students. Duane instead wrote about a Thai Buddhist temple on the outskirts of Fort Worth. There he found something that attracted him. He returned to participate in Buddhist worship. While developing his skills as a journalist he was also enriching his spiritual life. But head and heart still seemed in separate worlds. Eventually Duane would struggle as he sought to bring them together.

After graduating from Texas Christian University, Duane seemed ready for a career in journalism and a local newspaper was eager to hire him. Instead, Duane accepted the invitation of a Thai monk to visit Thailand and live at a Thai temple. He

returned to Texas a few months later, enriched spiritually and more convinced than ever that Buddhism was the best path for him. Back in the Fort Worth area in 1988, Duane became a newspaper reporter and attended a Vietnamese temple where he practiced Buddhism and helped the newest “third wave” of Vietnamese immigrants learn ways to manage living in American society. Head and heart remained separate.

A visit to India in 1990 prompted another important turning point in Duane's life. “I started to see systemic sin,” he recalled, “where the system itself fosters exploitation. Observing the suffering of bonded laborers in India, I saw the Exodus story being played out yet again.” Time spent in the Tibetan refugee community of Dharmasala also helped him see systemic evil.

The experiences were like an acid burning away at Duane's conscience. “I came back,” he said, “realizing I had to make a choice: either commit fully to journalism or get out.” His heart told him it was not enough to be an observer, a reporter. “I was misusing the gift of listening. I needed to get my hands and heart together.” What should he do?

Soon a friend told Duane that the Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network was seeking a new director. Duane applied. Jim Collie, chairman of the AIDS Interfaith board at the time, told an audience at CST in 2011 that Duane hardly seemed to be the ideal candidate. In the interview it quickly became apparent he had no training in medicine, had not worked previously with AIDS communities, and to top it off, he was a Buddhist who would be expected to work with Christian and Jewish faith groups. “It may have helped,” Jim puckishly noted, “that the pay was low and Duane was the only applicant we had.” Jim said these things not to demean Duane, whom he now considers a dear and respected friend, but rather to point out how improbable, perhaps even miraculous, were the circumstances that sent Duane in a new direction that would eventually land him at Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Lincoln University.

Several years went by. Duane was a very successful director. Head and heart finally seemed to move together. And yet, and yet... something still was missing. Seeking advice, he went to the Abbot of the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple where he had been practicing and serving for about five years, and made a very un-Buddhist request. “Please evaluate my practice as a Buddhist,” Duane asked. The Abbot rightfully demurred. Duane, however, imposing on their close friendship, repeated his request. So the Abbot ticked off the many excellent things that Duane had accomplished with the Temple, with the AIDS Interfaith Network, and with the community. Then came the judgment, in a sense a bombshell, yet it confirmed something which Duane had already sensed: *“Everything you are doing is meritorious. None of it is good.”*

(see **Duane** on Page 6)



## Conscientious Projector

**C**onscientious 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. Films are screened the third Wednesday of each month at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street (in the old Packing House) in Claremont.

Wednesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. the film to be screened is *Back Home Tomorrow*. EMERGENCY is an independent nonprofit organization that provides support for medical care, rehabilitation and relief efforts for the victims of wars, land mines, poverty and natural disasters around the world. *Back Home Tomorrow*, by Fabrizio Lazzaretti and Paolo Santolini features the moving stories of two children affected by war and highlights the work of EMERGENCY.

Yagoub fled Darfur with his family and now lives in the Mayo Refugee Camp in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. He has to undergo a serious heart operation, but neither his family nor his fellow tribesmen can come up with the money to pay for it.

Then, there's Murtaza. He's recuperating in EMERGENCY's hospital in Kabul after losing his right hand and suffering multiple injuries to a landmine.

The directors expertly interweave these two fascinating and heartfelt stories without commentary to create a film of rich complexities and emotional resonance.

The film to be screened Wednesday, August 21 at 7:00 p.m. is *Locked Out 2010*. This is a compelling story of 560 unionized borax miners in the desert town of Boron, California who faced off against Rio Tinto, a British-Australian multi-billion dollar global corporation, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest mining company in the world. Boron, population 2000, is home to many miners and their families, and is a close knit community of small businesses, churches, the boy scouts, the little league and many single family homes where workers have lived stable middle class lives for many generations. But their jobs and way of life were threatened when Rio Tinto locked them out of work on January 31, 2010 and replaced them with scabs.

*Locked Out 2010* is more than an important historical document – it's an entertaining and inspiring blueprint that shows how workers can take on powerful employers – and win.

## Summer Choir in July

**C**alling all singers – and we do mean “all” singers. Summer choir time is almost here and we would love to see whole families come and sing. Starting July 7, all that is required is coming to church at 9:00 a.m. and meeting in the choir room to learn a simple anthem for the service that morning. We would love to see the choir full of people of all ages and we encourage families to come and sing together. All ages, from young children to great-grandparents are welcome!

Looking forward to singing with you on any or all Sundays in the month of July.

## Community Meal

**C**PC continues involvement in the Summer Community Meal as one of seven congregations serving meals three Sundays a month on a rotating basis to people who are homeless or simply lack resources to adequately feed their families. These meals are served at Sumner Elementary School in Claremont. It is our turn to provide the meal again **Sunday, July 28**. On that date, volunteers are needed to:

- Prepare a food item for 20 people and bring it to Sumner School by 2:45 p.m. that day and/or
- Help serve the meal, visit with participants and prepare “to go” boxes.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact the church office at (909) 626-9693.

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 05/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$189,160	\$212,500
Other Income	33,182	40,875
Bequests/Gifts	1,500	0
Reserve Transfer	0	0
Expenses	( 245,641)	( 264,245)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 21,799)</b>	<b>( 10,870)</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 05/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$315,239	\$282,399
Expenses	( 306,084)	(281,866)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>9,155</b>	<b>533</b>

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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693, email [jcolclough@claremontpres.org](mailto: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

## Duane (cont. from page 4)

As Duane told me this story, I felt my breath ebb. Had I been in his shoes, I would have felt crushed. "Was the Abbot right?" I asked, hoping for a negative response.

"Yes," Duane replied.

Bewildered, I pressed, "What did he mean? What did you lack?"

Duane smiled at me. "Grace."

The Abbot meant in part that Duane was always striving to do good, but good could not be accomplished by striving. Duane directed me to *Philippians*, where Paul, seeking to define a community of faith, admonishes, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." The full revelation may not have been clear immediately, but it was enough to solidify a feeling that had been growing: that Buddhism, while a rich and marvelous path, was not a sufficient path in itself for Duane. He needed to explore other paths.

He had already started to do so. About a year before he spoke to the Abbot, Duane had begun to take classes at the Anglican School of Theology in nearby Dallas. At first shocked to learn that Christianity had a rich contemplative tradition, he soon began to see significant connections between Christianity and Buddhism, a perception often lost to his Christian associates. Duane then made another decision. Discerning that his own gifts of caring would be best used not in administration but rather in working directly with those who were suffering, Duane applied and was accepted as a Chaplain intern at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. There his understanding of grace multiplied. "I saw the worst that people can do each other. And I found the essence of grace in the act of Communion with each other and God."

Duane continued to follow where the Spirit led, which resulted eventually in ordination as a Presbyterian minister and a Ph.D. in Practical Theology from Brite Divinity School. Today Duane is a valued member of the faculty of Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Lincoln University, where he focuses on Practical Theology, Spiritual Care and Counseling.

When I first talked with Duane I thought it strange that such a bright and capable man did not have a clearer plan for his life when he was younger. Eventually I came to realize that no plan imaginable would have culminated in his presence among us. Duane himself hinted at this when he noted, "When I was ordained my committee was very skeptical of this Buddhist-Christian meld. Now it seems many seminarians are doing this."

And so I am reminded of the wisdom of Craig Stubblebine, who recently told me, "If you want to make God laugh, just tell Him you have a plan."

Duane's story is a remarkable odyssey, and there is much more to say. However, these columns that I write have a word limit that I have already grievously exceeded. I first sought out Duane Bidwell because I thought he had valuable things to say about our CPC Listening Project, which is true but I became so fascinated by his story that I never got around to it. I have moreover shortchanged his many academic titles and contributions and left out superb perspectives on that Buddhist-Christian meld he embodies. Many more remarkable insights gleaned from four hours of interviews which he so graciously accorded me remain in my notes and not here.

You must seek him out. This has to be one of those columns that concludes, "to be continued." Not by me, but by you, as you get to know the Duane Bidwell, Karee Galloway, and Ben Bidwell family that graces our church and us. Peace and Grace to us all.

~Dick Johnson

## Peruvian Shawls

During the next two months I'm sure your family will have many birthdays, anniversaries and other special events that will require a special gift. Presbyterian Women have a limited supply of Peruvian Shawls from which you can choose. These shawls were woven in an Andean mountain village in Peru, are 100% Peruvian cotton, and come in black/tan or black/white. The price of \$50.00 is donated to Angel Interfaith Network, a mission organization that supplies new baby needs such as clothing, strollers, cribs and car seat to the LAC/USC Medical Center. Please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693 if you would like to see a shawl.

## CPCC Fundraiser

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, July 8 and Monday, August 12 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!



# COMMUNICATOR



**Claremont Presbyterian Church**  
**1111 North Mountain Avenue**  
**Claremont, CA 91711**  
**(909) 624-9693**

**Return Service Requested**

Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Claremont, CA  
Permit No. 131

**Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: August 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.