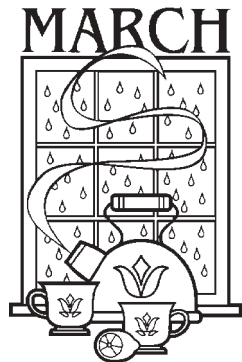




# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

March 2016



## Worship Plans

**Sunday, March 6 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

"Seven Last Words:

My God, My God, Why Have You  
Forsaken Me"

**Sunday, March 13 10:00 a.m.**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

"Seven Last Words:

I Am Thirsty"

**Sunday, March 20 10:00 a.m.**

*Palm Sunday*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

"The Seven Last Words:

It Is Finished"

Sanctuary Organ Dedication

**Sunday, March 27 10:00 a.m.**

*Easter Sunday*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

"The First Words"

## Things Seen and Unseen...

The Christian tradition includes the affirmation from the Nicene Creed that God is the Creator of "all that is seen and unseen." Our life at CPC right now includes quite a bit of both.

### Things Seen:

Newly completed drought resistant landscaping on the north side of the CPC campus. This new landscaping was part of the "New Beginnings in Environmental Stewardship" component of our 2015 Capital Campaign.

The Sanctuary Organ is back! Newly returned from its trip to Foley-Baker's organ workshop in Connecticut, the organ console has been digitized and refurbished. On our chancel, the organ well was filled in so that the organ can be placed on a moveable platform. This will give much more flexibility in the placement of the organ and piano on the chancel for special worship events and concerts. We will re-dedicate the Sanctuary organ in worship on Palm Sunday – including a special composition by our own Geri DeMasi for the occasion.

Soup Fridays: a weekly gathering around a simple evening meal of Soup and Bread. Between 20-30 people gather each week from our church and the wider community.

Lenten groups meeting to reflect on the Seven Last Words of Christ as well as a series of Lenten sermons on the same theme.

### Things Unseen:

An Interim Strategy Team appointed by Session has been working to determine a staffing plan for the next 12-18 months. This group has met with a number of groups in the congregation for feedback, consulted with Presbytery, and worked with Pastor Karen to discern priorities for staffing at this time. This group will be making some initial recommendations to Session at its meeting on March 2.

Our January congregational meeting approved a change to our by-laws allowing for more flexible numbers of officers and changing the season for election of officers from fall to spring. The CPC Nominating Committee is at work organizing an early March gathering of potential leaders to help discern who God is calling as officers and leaders for our congregation during this important time of transition.

Work continues on the classroom renovations that are also part of our Capital Campaign project. There have been some delays in delivery of appropriate materials; however, work is happening which should become more visible in April and May. In addition, we have reached an agreement with a local solar energy company to install panels on the Fellowship Hall roof. That, too, will move from the unseen to the seen category in the next few months.

We give thanks to God, Creator of all that is Seen and Unseen, for working within us and among us to make this work possible.

Pastor Karen Sapio

## Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 9:45.

Our Lenten theme in 2016 is “The Seven Last Words of Christ.” We continue the discussion of James Martin’s new book *Seven Last Words*. This line-up will give a variety of perspective on the theme and should deepen our conversation.



For those who can’t come on Sunday before church, there will also be small groups meeting to reflect on this theme and book after church at 11:15 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening.

**March 6:** Rev. Tina Blair - “Why have you forsaken me?”

**March 13:** Rev. Mark Carlson - “I am thirsty.”

**March 20:** Pastor Karen Sapio - “Into your hands I commit my spirit.”

**March 27:** Rev. Steve Metcalf - “It is finished.”

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## Holy Week Services and Events

**Palm Sunday, March 20**

10:00 a.m. Worship

Re-dedication of Sanctuary Organ including a special composition by Geri DeMasi

**Maundy Thursday, March 24**

7:00 p.m. Worship with Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Sanctuary Choir

**Good Friday, March 25**

Community Good Friday service, 2:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran

Good Friday Prayer Stations, 7:00 p.m. in CPC Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

Sunrise service projects at local shelters (see article below)

10:00 a.m. Easter Worship

Karen Sapio preaching - “The First Words”

Sanctuary Choir



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## Easter Service Projects

Last year we did service projects together as a community in lieu of an early morning Easter Service. This year, we are planning to continue that experience. We have multiple opportunities for service. Please email Krista ([krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org)) if you are interested in any of the following:

- Cooking and serving breakfast to the women of Crossroads on Easter morning. See Crossroads’ website: [www.crossroadswomen.org/](http://www.crossroadswomen.org/)
- Bringing a prepared dish and serving breakfast to people living in homelessness through CHAP. See CHAP’s website: [www.chapclaremont.org/](http://www.chapclaremont.org/)
- Donating money or items and/or preparing Easter Baskets for children living in homelessness on Easter. Baskets will be delivered by Maundy Thursday to the children living at “Our House” shelter in Pomona.

## Sunday Morning for Children and Youth

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.

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 from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

### Youth Triennium

Every three years, the PCUSA offers a wonderful opportunity for youth across the country to join one another to worship, learn and play together – it is called Triennium! This year, Triennium will take place from July 19 - July 23 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. This experience is open to high school age youth (entering freshmen through graduated seniors.) The theme of Triennium this year is GO! GO and DO likewise; Teach me the way I should GO; Let my people GO; GO into the world!

If you have a teen that you think would enjoy this experience please let us know and we can help you with the details of registration.

For more information please visit [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).

### Godly Play

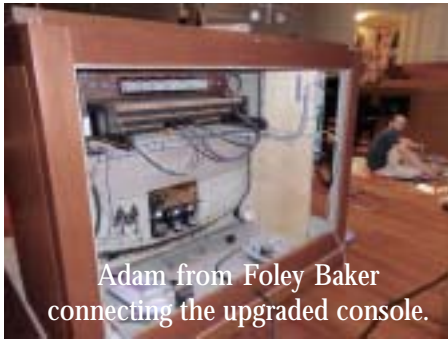
We invite all elementary age school children to join us for Godly Play during the worship hour. Children will be excused to go to Godly Play after the Time with the Children.

This is a wonderful curriculum that engages children's wonder and budding moral imagination. Our lessons are being taught by our team of adult and youth teachers, all of whom are trained and committed to the Godly Play way of learning together.

If you have questions or would like to get involved with Godly Play, please talk to Krista, or email [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org).



### Capital Campaign Projects Progress



Your generosity to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign is truly making a difference on the CPC campus! The "Naturescape" along Santa Clara Avenue was dedicated after church on February 21, providing a lovely walkway and gathering space as well as water-wise plantings and irrigation. And the updated organ console is being re-installed and tuned. By raising it level with the chancel it will be movable for special musical presentations. Dedication of the renovated organ will be on Palm Sunday, March 20.

A contract has been signed to install solar panels on the Fellowship Hall roof. Depending on permits, work should begin in March. And hopefully the back-logged materials

for the education wing will have arrived by the time you read this, allowing progress to accelerate on that project.

Thank you for your support to prepare our facilities for the next 60 years. And remember to stay current with your pledge payments. Early re-payment of the construction loan will reduce interest payments, with no penalty.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the following people:

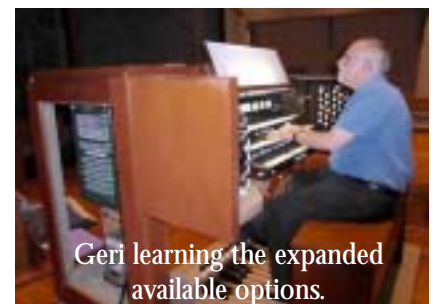
*The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee:* Eric Bernal, Geri DeMasi, Dee Kelley, John Loper, Sacha Lord, Karen Sapio and Teddie Warner

*Environmental Stewardship:* Sam Atwood, Tom Bleakney, Scott Randles, Karen Sapio and Steve Sittig

*Facilities:* Sacha Lord, Dee Kelley, Robin Kelley, John Loper, George and Peggy Trindle

*Ministry:* The Mission Commission and New Beginnings groups

*Music:* Geri DeMasi, Roger House and Karen Sapio



## People in the Church: Kent and Lynn Miller

Ah, predestination, what a wonderfully mysterious, misunderstood doctrine. It changed Lynn Miller's life. Lynn attended Covina Presbyterian as a child and after moving to Claremont, her mother joined CPC. During her teen years, she realized that Presbyterians were supposed to believe in predestination and that troubled her. "Well, I don't believe in that," she told herself, unaware that most Calvinists in America, influenced by Jacob Arminius, were on her side. Predestination left no room for free will and responsibility, she reasoned, and so she followed her friends to St. Ambrose and became an Episcopalian.

More changes were in her future before she would return to CPC. Her first husband was Catholic. Lynn converted to Catholicism and raised four children in that faith. Divorce, however, brought complications with the Catholic doctrine, especially if she ever wished to remarry in the church. When Lynn returned to Claremont, she enrolled her children in the Claremont schools while she completed her own college education and became a teacher after earning an M.A. in Education from Claremont Graduate School. It was a time of new beginnings.

Lynn reconnected to CPC through Kent, who had begun attending CPC in 1985, soon after his divorce. As Kent tells it, he and his first wife had visited churches but never found one that suited both of them. The divorce freed him to find a church that he liked. Following Alex Hughes' invitation, Kent visited CPC, and he liked it immediately. The church had progressive, caring and intelligent pastors in Jim Angell and Bear Ride Scott. The music was wonderful, the organ fantastic. Logic and reason, so important to a scientist such as Kent, were employed and encouraged in the worship experience, and perhaps most important, the people were open and accepting. Kent had already seen too many examples of people excluding each other on religious grounds. "Religions," he declared, "must learn to accept each other."

Kent came from a family of scientists, a tradition he followed. His father had founded the Department of Geology at Arizona State University in Tempe. Kent earned his MS degree in physics and taught at Citrus College, but earlier in his career, he taught chemistry and physics at Claremont High School. He developed several new physics programs there, and while at Citrus returned to CHS on an adjunct basis to teach one more advanced physics class to assure the programs' survival. One day in the faculty lounge he started chatting with Lynn, then a student teacher at CHS. Soon they began dating. Kent, however, had to overcome a certain unexpected hurdle. Puzzled that Kent looked slightly familiar, Lynn finally realized the truth. A very young Kent Miller "had been my CHS chemistry teacher, and he gave me a B+" while Lynn's lab partner received an A-. Yes, such indeed are the sins of teachers. I expect there will be a long line of teachers at the gates of heaven, waiting to plead their case before St. Peter. A few, like Kent, able to present the evidence of a happy marriage to Lynn, will surely be forgiven.

Marriage brought together Kent's two children and Lynn's four. Their blended family grew to include six families and 11 grandchildren scattered from San Francisco all the way to Basel, Switzerland.

Raised a Methodist, Kent gained a strong trust in God at an early age. Despite his scientific leanings, he understood that faith does not depend on logic and reason. In college, he delighted in the wide spectrum of ideas he encountered in Wesley Foundation discussions where "eighty per cent of the people were either agnostic or atheist."

As a child, Lynn, too, experienced a strong personal relationship and trust in God. "I never lost my faith," she says, but then she notes a time as a teenager when she "lost God." Although she prayed, there was a sense that God was not there, not connected. For about a month, this feeling of loss frightened her, but when the loneliness ended, the experience taught her an even greater sense of trust. "Let go and let God" has become for her a guide that "really helps." Moreover, it sustains her optimism. "We see God in people helping each other. Faith brings hope and humility, and in this, it seems to make us less cynical than atheists and agnostics."

Since Lynn became a CPC member around the beginning of the new millennium, she has joined Kent to become increasingly active in church leadership. She has served as a Deacon while Kent has served twice as an Elder. Lynn especially likes that moment in worship when members are newly commissioned and three fourths of the congregation links to them by placing hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them.

As a church Elder, Kent has experienced some concerns about the situation in which CPC now seems to find itself. It seems over the last five or more years to be "losing vibrancy" as some of the traditional groups within the church have slowed or even disappeared. Within the Presbytery, he sees some congregations leaving PCUSA for reasons he views as exclusionary. He sees this as probably a good transition since these congregations reject the denomination's willingness to allow the ordinations of gay and lesbian clergy.

CPC is more representative of the older, more inclusive mainstream denominations, and its problems mirror that larger context. At first feeling restless and worried about CPC, Kent and Lynn have come to realize that our problems are not unique, that we are not alone, and that we and many others are in the midst of a great transition. They see this stretching to their own children and grandchildren. It will be uncomfortable, there will be changes, and "we have to be ready for it to be different." Lynn notes that while we maintain traditions, we must make room for new forms of meaning and authenticity. With a smile that exudes his own optimism, Kent declares that "it will be an interesting ride."

While his concerns remain, Kent's worries have lessened. Glad to be part of what CPC represents, even if it lacks the

(see **Miller** on Page 5)





## Dinner for a Good Cause

On the second Monday of each month you have an opportunity to support the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center. El Rancho 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 Rancho on Monday, March 14 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. What could be easier?

## Subscribe to Weekly Email

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](http://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. Go to [www.facebook.com/claremontpres](http://www.facebook.com/claremontpres).

You may contact Jo Colclough in the church office at [jcolclough@claremontpres.org](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) and tell her you would like to subscribe.

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 01/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 42,386	\$ 39,750
Other Income	6,095	8,008
Bequests/Gifts	0	0
Expenses	( 43,633)	( 48,036)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>( 278)</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 01/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 63,880	\$ 60,466
Expenses	( 57,333)	( 60,466 )
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>6,547</b>	<b>0</b>

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

## Miller (Cont. from Page 4)

dynamic growth he would like to see, he emphatically declares, "I embrace our church. There are some wonderful people. It is a great church family."

~ Dick Johnson

## Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at Pilgrim Place on Tuesday, March 22. To donate blood you must be at least seventeen years of age, be in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. If you are interested in making an appointment to give blood at the Pilgrim Place Blood Drive, please contact Ruth Auld.

## New Member's Class

Have you been part of our church community for a while and are interested in becoming a formal member of this church family? We will be offering a New Member's class on Sunday, April 17 to explore what it means to be a member and how to achieve that. We will take registrations in the latter part of March, so please put this on your calendar if you are interested.

Save the Date!

The Great Getaway

May 20-21, 2016

San Clemente State Beach

## Soup Friday

Soup Friday meets in Fellowship Hall each Friday evening from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This new initiative was a big success this fall, offering a time of food and conversation for all those weary after a long week.

A big thanks to Judy Kohnen for the inspiration for this event and for coordinating the first several months. We need volunteer coordinators for the Fridays in March!

Being Head Soup Wrangler for one Soup Friday involves:

- Making a pot of soup and soliciting other food contributors
- Checking supplies of paper goods and replacing as needed
- Arriving early to set up, (tables already in place)
- Recruiting a clean-up team to clean up at evening's end

Do you feel called to take on a night as Head Soup Wrangler? Contact Pastor Karen Sapio.



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](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) or fax to (909) 624-4743.

**Editor:** Jo Colclough

**Pastor**  
Karen Sapio

**Church School**  
9:00 a.m.  
(Except in Summer)

**Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care  
available both hours

## Agenda for a Prophetic Faith for 2016

The lecture series continues for its fourth season in Southern California with two of five great speakers still to come. Tickets are \$15.00 for single lectures. See Stan Springer (909) 624-463 for tickets.

### Sunday, March 6, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Susan Emmerich, Award-Winning Video Producer and Community Organizer  
"Creating a Future for America's Left-Behind Young Adults"  
Claremont United Methodist Church, 211 Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711

### Sunday, April 3, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Galen Guengerich, Author, *God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age*  
"Redeeming American Politics through a Return to Gratitude"  
Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 W. Harrison Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711

Agenda FOR A  
Prophetic  
Faith proclaim  
Jabier

## 2016 Pictorial Directory Time

It's that time again! Time to flex those smile muscles and raid the closet for the "picture clothes," so that you and yours can be photographed for a new Claremont Presbyterian Church Directory. We want everybody's picture in it...including YOURS.

If you haven't been part of this process before here's how it works. First, you sign up for a photo session either in person on Sunday after church, or on-line the rest of the week. Second, assemble other family members as necessary and figure out your photo session clothing strategy. Third, show up to your photo session appointment. Finally, smile for the camera. Each family that participates will get one 8 x 10 print. You will also have an opportunity to purchase additional photos in sizes

and finishes, but there is no obligation. Your photos will be sent to you, and in a few months we will have a new directory.

The photographers will be here Tuesday - Friday, April 12 - 15 from 1:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday April 16 from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

We will start taking sign-ups on March 6 on the patio. There will also be an option to sign-up on-line during the week. We hope to get as many people as possible so our directory is a good and complete snapshot of our church family. If you can't make any of those dates, we will do make-ups in order to get in the directory, but they won't be done by the photographers.

Look for more information in the church bulletins!

## Uncommon Good Urban Farm Update

We have been working diligently here at Uncommon Good to establish a garden/farming project with the Claremont Presbyterian Church. The farming strategy we have been employing has been a very basic one, starting off with helping to create a good soil by adding organic matter in the form of wood chips, straw, and compost.

There were many people on hand last year helping establish the front garden berms. It takes time for the different layers of matter to mesh together and become productive. Still, winter squash harvested in that area totaled 131 pounds. Not bad, considering how late they were planted. The front will ultimately be divided into two 90 foot sections using the two existing hose bibs as water sources. We will look forward to a crop of squash, peppers, tomatoes, and eggplant.

The smaller, back gardens have been amended with compost and straw, planted with a quick crop

of greens (Tatsoi, freckled lettuce, spinach, radishes, some fava beans) to be followed by squash, tomatoes, and peppers. The irrigation has been retrofitted so as to be able to accept drip adaption in the near future.

Though it is a slow process, as we continue to care for the soil by adding natural amendments such as biochar and actively aerated compost teas, we will have healthier, more resistant crops, and bigger, better yields.

You can purchase a Produce Box of fruits and vegetables from Uncommon Good's Urban Gardens. Just go to [www.uncommongood.org](http://www.uncommongood.org) and click the tab marked "Buy Our Fresh Vegetables." This will lead you to a link to order a Produce Box for pick up at Uncommon Good headquarters behind Claremont United Methodist Church or for home delivery at a small extra fee.

~ Eduardo Casarez

Urban Farms Program Manager



# COMMUNICATOR



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

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

## **Mission Yearbook Online**

As of January 1, 2016, the 120-year old Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study is available exclusively online. You can visit the website [www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook) or choose to receive the yearbook day by day via email or RSS feed.

## **“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.

Be sure to share it 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. 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.