



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

May 2014

## From the Pastor Looking Toward Summer

I am writing these words the day after Easter Sunday, a day when the celebration of Christ's Resurrection began early and continued all day with a total of five services from CPC, Emmanuel Presbyterian and GPIB Indonesian Fellowship. Christ is Risen indeed!

No matter when Easter occurs in any given year, it always feels that during the season of Eastertide which follows, we turn our focus and energies toward what's coming in the summer months. Here is some of what's in the works for Summer 2014!

May 30 - June 1: All Church Campout at San Clemente Beach. You can plan on beach camping with tent or trailer – or you can make reservations at the nearby San Clemente Inn.

June 15 - 19 Vacation Bible School Sunday through Thursday evening. A great learning experience for kids from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade; and a great volunteer experience for youth and adults.

June 29 - July 5 and July 6 - 12: Christian Summer Camps at Big Bear Presbyterian Conference Center. Programs for children and youth entering 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Also Leadership Training Camps for Senior High students. See Rocky Supinger for more info.

July 26 - August 4: Youth Work Trip to Ghost Ranch New Mexico

July and August: The Return of "The People's Choice" sermon series: sermons on topics and texts chosen by the congregation. (See inside for more details!)

And finally, as many of you know, I will be on Sabbatical from May 29 - July 27. I am grateful that the congregation voted to grant me this opportunity at January's annual meeting. I will be spending that time in the community of San Miguel de Allende in Mexico. I'll be a visiting pastor for The Community Church of San Miguel, [communitychurchofsanmiguel.org](http://communitychurchofsanmiguel.org), and working on my DMin dissertation. While I am away, Pastor Rocky Supinger and Parish Associate Mary Kuhns will be covering pastoral ministries here, along with assistance from some of our retired pastors and back-up from our Board of Deacons on Pastoral Care. I'll post periodic updates to our church website and FB pages while I'm away.

I wish all of you a joyful Eastertide!

*Karen Sapio*



### Worship Plans

**Sunday, May 4 10:00 a.m.**

*Third Sunday of Easter*

Luke 24:13-35

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, May 11 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

John 10:1-10

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday May 18 10:00 a.m.**

*Youth Sunday*

Worship led by the youth of CPC

**Sunday, May 25 10:00 a.m.**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

John 14:15-21

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

## Adult Education

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



### Each Sunday in May:

1. "Questions That Haunt Christianity," explorations of doubt and faith for Eastertide in Room 1.
2. "It's Complicated: Understanding Teens and Social Media" led by Rocky Supinger and high school youth in Room 7

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## CPC Students Lead Worship on May 18

The junior high and high school students of CPC wish to invite the entire church community to a special service of Lord's Day worship on May 18. Youth Sunday is an annual tradition that features the gifts and passions of our students as they lead the entire community in worship. Every aspect of worship is planned and led by them.

This year's Youth Sunday will include a special touch, when our annual recognition of our teachers' contributions will be led by youth, that is, their students.

We hope you will be part of this unique worship gathering.

## Introducing our New Parish Associate, The Rev. Mary Kuhns

At its March meeting, CPC's Session concurred with the Personnel Committee's choice of the Rev. Mary Kuhns as our new Parish Associate.

Mary Kuhns comes to us with parish ministry experience in churches in Atlanta, Louisville and Santa Fe. She has spent more than 25 years as a pastoral counselor and couples and family therapist. She has been a supervisor of students and adjunct faculty at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and served a denominational advocate for women. She has lived in Michigan, the Philippines, Atlanta, Louisville, Santa Fe, and now Claremont.

Mary will be assisting with pastoral care visiting in collaboration with Pastor Karen and Pastor Rocky. She will also provide pastoral support to our Board of Deacons. You will also find her participating in worship and preaching occasionally.

We are delighted to welcome Mary as a member of our ministry team!

## May 3 - Help at Garden

The Constantine Family Orchard and Garden grows and harvests fruit and vegetables to be distributed through Inland Valley Hope Partners to needy families and individuals. Come join us as mulchers, planters, & weeders - come and go as you please on May 3. The Garden is located at 525 N San Dimas Canyon Rd, San Dimas CA 91773.

## Summer Surprise

Each summer we take a break from our primary children's curriculum, *Godly Play*, to focus our attention in a different way. We call our eight-week summer series Summer Surprise! Because we understand that most families need more flexibility in the summer, we design and select curriculum for Summer Surprise that complements our Godly Play curriculum, but one in which each Sunday is a complete lesson. Our hope is that children can find enrichment if they come to all eight weeks in the series, or if they just come to one.

This summer we are learning about stories of children in the Bible including Miriam, young Jeremiah, and twelve-year old Jesus. Our hope is through the stories and activities that the children will connect their stories to the stories of the children in both the Old and New Testament. We expect that through this identification our children's faith will be enriched. This year, Summer Surprise will run eight consecutive Sundays from June 22-August 10. We meet during worship following "The Time with the Children," and children entering kindergarten - grade 5 are welcome to come and learn.

Youth are encouraged to co-teach with adults during Summer Surprise, and they can do so after a brief training. If you have a young person that would like to help teach one or more of these summer Sundays please contact Krista at [krista.wuertz@cst.edu](mailto:krista.wuertz@cst.edu).



## Sunday Morning for Children and Youth

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

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

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

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## Godly Play

During the season of Easter we are engaging a new series of lessons in our Godly Play classroom that help us explore the transition between Jesus' ministry on earth and the coming of the Holy Spirit – the time when Jesus' disciples were getting to know Jesus in new and different ways. These lessons help us to extend our awareness of Easter, and at the same time prepares us for the coming of Pentecost. This series of lessons is called, *Knowing Jesus in a New Way*. All children are welcome to join us as we learn together. Please see our children's programming note for the schedule.

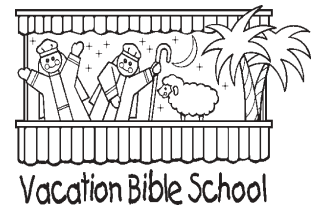
In May we have the following lessons:

May 4: "Knowing Jesus in a New Way: Known in the Breaking of the Bread,"

May 11: "Knowing Jesus in a New Way: Known in Doubt and Known in the Morning,"

May 18: "Knowing Jesus in a New Way: Known in Making Him Known,"

May 25: "Knowing Jesus in a New Way: Known in Waiting."



## Vacation Bible School at Claremont Presbyterian Church Sunday, June 15, 2014 – Thursday, June 19, 2014 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This year at Vacation Bible School we will be learning about the ways in which God guides us in our lives and God's good care in providing what we need. We will all use our imaginations to be transported to the wilderness where will join Moses and the Israelites as they escape from Egypt and learn to trust God as they make their way. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful experience that we offer each summer to the children from both the church and local communities. At VBS the children who participate are able to experience their faith and to learn more about God's love and care for each of us, as well as for all of us collectively.

We have many activities planned for the children each night including: *Celebration Time* where the children sing, dance and talk about what they are learning together, *The Israelite Camp* where children do arts and crafts, *Organized Field Games*, and a *Nightly Drama Presentation* where children get to engage actors who are playing Moses and "The Wilderness Whiner." Each night we also all eat a community meal together made lovingly by people from our own congregation, which gives us a special opportunity to fellowship with one another – and also to experience God's care for us through community. Throughout the week, adults from the Claremont Presbyterian Church community will be guiding the children through their activities helping to enrich the experience of VBS for all children.

Please consider joining us at VBS this year, as this is a community event in which we all come together to enrich the faith experience of the children of our community. If you have any questions about VBS or ideas about how you would like to help, please reach Krista at [krista.wuertz@cst.edu](mailto:krista.wuertz@cst.edu). There will be more information and opportunities to register soon both on the CPC campus and on the CPC website. Look for us!

## People in the Church: Daisy Najarian July 9, 1932 – August 21, 2002

As we gather around the tables in Fellowship Hall the Sunday before Christmas, not all of us know of Daisy Najarian, late wife of John Najarian, the pastor of Claremont Presbyterian Church from 1989 to 1998. Nor do all of us know the history of the Christmas breakfast that bears her name. Lovely, petite, modest Daisy, exuding warmth to family and strangers alike, was much beloved at CPC.

Each year CPC hosts the Daisy Najarian Christmas Breakfast. In the beginning it was simply a Christmas breakfast, Daisy's idea, hosted by Daisy in the Najarian home. Early on, the breakfast outgrew the Najarian home, and the event moved to Fellowship Hall. Daisy thought that, when Christmas comes, we are so caught up in the commercialism of the season and the rush of preparation that this occasion could offer a time for members and friends of the congregation to relax and to enjoy the moment. Daisy was always there early, making the coffee.

Daisy knew churches, and she knew the people. Claremont was the fourth parish that she and John had led. Her legendary gift for hospitality, her desire to seek out the strangers and those who seemed alone marked her as one with a ministry in her own right.

Daisy lived on a farm outside Fresno, California for her first 6-7 years. Her parents had met in the Armenian immigrant community there. Her mother had grown up in the Armenian Presbyterian Church, founded by missionaries in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Her father was raised in the Armenian Apostolic Church in America, a denomination that traces its heritage back to its status in Armenia as the world's oldest national church. While Daisy's name suggests a desire by her parents that she be recognized as "American," the church's strong traditions tightly bonded the Armenian immigrants to past centuries and history.

Daisy's parents divorced when she was young, and her mother moved to Fresno with the four children, one son and three daughters, Violet, Pansy and Daisy, the youngest. Her mother supported the family by working in a packing house; the hours were long, the work not easy and the pay meager. Daisy remembered that her mother would bring piece work home, dates to be wrapped in red paper by the family. Her mother bartered for piano lessons for Daisy by cooking for a French Armenian immigrant, who had studied with Franz Liszt.

Daisy and John, whose father was Armenian and mother a New Englander, attended school together, grade school through high school at a time when the Armenian population was 3000-5000, thus the largest single group in the schools. They grew up in the same conservative Presbyterian church of 200 members and attended Christian Endeavor, the youth group of the time. Daisy earned a modest pay as church organist and pianist, playing from the gospel hymnal, *Singspiration*.

Although, by his own reporting, he did not date very much, John recalled that after he "noticed" Daisy, he began singing in the choir! (Many years later in the ministry at San Anselmo Presbyterian Church, at a Christmas gathering in their home,

Daisy amazed the company by playing the old hymns from memory, the raucous gathering so surprising a daughter returning from a date that she thought they had all been drinking!).

Daisy, living at home, attended college at Fresno State. She worked at Household Finance Corporation, learning on the job about mortgages and loans. She was a practical person, good with finance, aware of her mother's sacrifices and ambitions for her children. Her romance with John flourished on dates at the pizza place and Carnation Ice Cream, but, when he actually took her out to a real restaurant, she had a hint that he was going to propose.

A week after John graduated from Fresno State in journalism, they married, both leaving their family homes for the first time. They honeymooned for two nights in Carmel on their way to San Anselmo Presbyterian Seminary. Daisy transferred to HFC in San Francisco, commuting across the Golden Gate Bridge. The last two years in seminary, she worked for the Bank of Marin, and in October, 1956 Susan was born. John wryly recalled that they followed only half of the dictum to seminary students, "Don't marry in seminary, but be married with children when you head for your first parish," which turned out to be in Walterville, Oregon, a logging community.

Their second parish was in Salem, Oregon, a new church development, where daughter, Beth, and son, John Mather, were born. As a pastor's wife, Daisy chose not to say anything negative about anyone but to encourage a positive attitude in relationships. She followed her mother's instruction, "Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." Like her mother, she had a quiet sense of humor and was really smart. In these first two parishes, living next to the church, Daisy and John had at least one Sunday School class in their home, adults in the living room and high schoolers in the basement.

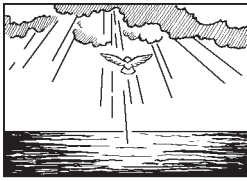
In their third parish in San Anselmo, they lived next to the seminary. Daisy was always around to greet people who seemed alone, on the fringes. She was wise, and, according to John, told him things he needed to know. She had a good sense of people. She often said, "I think you should pay a little more attention to so and so, or watch out for so and so." Daisy was well read. Newspapers, magazines provided table talk, political conversation. Both she and John were politically somewhat liberal, theologically somewhat conservative.

In between parishes John had a sojourn in business. Daisy enjoyed the weekends off, a little more affluence, the restaurant choices, a little travel, but the two of them didn't change their life style. Daisy was always supportive of the moves, although she knew that each new community was a challenge, the next one being Claremont Presbyterian Church.

Shortly after moving to Claremont, Daisy hosted a gathering of women at their home. Afterward Daisy was greeted

(see **Daisy** on Page 5)

## Daisy (cont. from page 4)



Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

~John 4:14

downtown by a woman who had not attended and was told verbatim everything she had served. Daisy's comment to John was, "We live in a small town." Growing up, Daisy knew what it was to be a minority. Like many immigrants she learned to navigate two worlds, and she was aware of tensions and hostilities between them. As a child and a young person, pejorative words were sometimes tossed around. And even in Claremont there were moments of unease. Yet her loyalty to John and to her family and her deep faith sustained her as she embraced her new community. John asks, "What does it mean to be in community?" The Armenian community cannot separate the church from the people. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century the Armenian alphabet was invented, which made it possible for the people to read the Bible and affirm commitment to the "I AM" of Exodus and declare that they were people of the faith. The Easter response, "Christ is Risen," is not just liturgy but a deep intertwining of one's personal and church identity. Who the Armenian people are, who Daisy was, is deeply rooted in the mystery of the faith.

When John and his family gather at Christmas in Fresno, Christmas Eve is an Armenian feast at Beth's home. On Christmas day there is a traditional dinner and a toast to the deceased in the family. An elder reminds the children that this

person is in them, both genetically and in their own values, in their interests, in the things they do and in the sense of who they are. Daisy thus is remembered by the generations of the family.

Daisy lived with cancer from the fall of 2001 to August, 2002. John evokes two poignant memories from that time: the vast outpouring of food from the people of Claremont Presbyterian, more than they could eat, and the singing of the Lord's Prayer in Armenian at Daisy's memorial service at CPC. When CPC organist, Geri DeMasi, began to play the Lord's Prayer, the Armenian community - first Daisy's cousins and then members of the community scattered throughout the church - stood as one to sing this national anthem of church and people.

John Najarian is now living in Friendship Court, an assisted living facility at Pilgrim Place. The move from independent living necessitated a certain amount of downsizing, but two treasures that remind him of Daisy no doubt survived the move: a pair of hiking boots, size 5 and ½, and a small carved wooden angel. The hiking boots suggest their journey together, through seminary, four parishes and the business world. The angel (and surely Daisy was one) suggests Daisy's lifelong practice of hospitality, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2 KJV

~Elsie Harber and Dick Johnson



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

### Pastors

Karen Sapio  
Rocky Supinger

### Church School

9:00 a.m.  
(Except in Summer)

### Worship

10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care  
available both hours



## Conscientious Projector - May 21

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!

Films are screened in Claremont on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Claremont Forum in the Old Packing House on First Street.

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 03/31/14	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 116,713	\$125,000
Other Income	20,054	25,775
Bequests/Gifts	5,500	0
Expenses	( 144,285)	( 157,405)
VARIANCE	( 2,018)	( 6,630)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 03/31/14	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 188,787	\$ 181,128
Expenses	( 189,914)	( 181,128)
VARIANCE	( 1,127)	0

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

## Help with Community Meal on May 25

Our church is one of seven congregations involved in serving meals three Sundays a month on a rotating basis: Claremont United Church of Christ, Friends Meeting (Quakers), Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Claremont United Methodist Church, Monte Vista Unitarian-Universalist and Nithyananda V. Temple, Montclair.

As you may remember, this meal program is the response to discussions more than three years ago led by members of the Interfaith Council on the question: "What can local faith communities do to address the needs of the 'homeless' (or financially challenged) in our midst?"

It's now our turn again on **Sunday, May 25**. On that date, volunteers are needed to (1) prepare a food item for 20 people and bring it to Sumner School by 2:45 p.m. that day or (2) help serve the meal, visit with participants and prepare "to go" boxes. If you're interested in helping out, please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

## Return of the People's Choice Sermon Series

Last summer's "People's Choice" sermon series was so well received that we've decided to do it again this summer. Once again, during May, we will invite the congregation to suggest texts or topics for our creative preachers to tackle during our summer Sundays.

Some of last year's topics included:

What's up with Leviticus?

Why is there so much violence in the Bible?

Is Atonement really necessary?

Please explain how the meek will inherit the earth!

Do you have a biblical story or text or a thorny theological topic you've always wished a preacher would address? Watch for opportunities to make your suggestion this month.

## Crossroads Yard Sale

CP Mission Partner, Crossroads, is holding a community-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 10 at Cahuilla Park in Claremont on the corner of Indian Hill and Scripps from 8:00 a.m. to noon. You may purchase a space for \$25.00 and sell all those "treasures" that have been piling up in your closet and garage.

Call the church office at (909) 624-9693 for more information.

## Agenda for a Prophetic Final Lecture

Lecture 5: Dr. Richard Parker, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

### ***Inequality – Or a Revival of Community?***

Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Claremont Presbyterian Church

- A project of Progressive Christians Uniting (PCU)
- Individual tickets \$12 - Low-income, student and scholarship tickets available
- More information: JForney170@aol.com or (909) 917-6081
- Website: agendaforapropheticfaith.info

## The Great Getaway Weekend: May 30 - June 1

Join us for a fun weekend of fellowship and relaxation as we retreat the last weekend in May! We are camping this time - tents, air mattresses, propane stoves, campfires, etc. We have reserved a group spot at the beautiful San Clemente State Beach Friday and Saturday nights, May 30 & 31. Because we will be camping the cost is substantially less than a retreat center, just \$25.00 per person, which includes camping and dinner on both Friday and Saturday nights. The campground does charge for parking. It is \$15.00 per night per vehicle which is paid to the campground upon check-in.

If you don't want to camp, the San Clemente Inn Resort is nearby. You can come for the day and sleep in a bed at night. You will need to make your own reservations. The phone number for San Clemente Inn is (949) 492-6103 or their website is [www.sanclementeinna.com](http://www.sanclementeinna.com).

If you would like to join us for the Great Getaway weekend (whether camping or staying at a nearby hotel) please sign up using the form included with this issue of the *Communicator*. You may also call the church office at (909) 624-9693.

## Help Support CPCC

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, May 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**

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

## **“Like” Us on Facebook**

Did you know that 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!

## **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.

## **Church Work Day May 17**

Come join your Property & Financy Commission on Saturday morning, May 17 as we work to spruce up our campus. We will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at noon; please come for whatever period works for you. There will be jobs available for all skill levels.

Rumor has it there may even be doughnuts!

## **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.