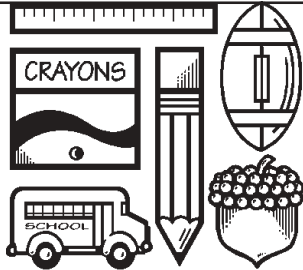




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

September 2013



SEPTEMBER

Worship Plans

Sunday, September 1 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessing of Hands for Work

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, September 8 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Kick-off Sunday

Barbecue following worship to benefit

Living Waters for the World

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, September 15 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, September 22 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest musicians from Indonesia

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, September 29 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

From the Pastor

Every September our congregation "Kicks Off" a new season of ministry and mission. This year, we can add to the usual menu of fall activities the arrival of the new Presbyterian Hymnal, "Glory to God". Our current hymnal was published 23 years ago in 1990. The new hymnal includes material from that book, new hymns written since 1990 as well as some older classics that weren't in the 1990 edition.

The Presbyterian Publishing Corp. recently sent out a notice that the new hymnals were in the process of being printed and bound with an anticipated shipping date of late September.

Our denomination's new hymnal has been getting a fair amount of attention. Most of it centers on some controversy relating to one particular hymn and some lyrics the hymnal committee found theologically problematic. In addition to the expected commentary in the church press, there was even an article about our hymnal on the website of the international new magazine *The Economist*. You can read it online at <http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2013/08/presbyterian-problem>.

Why, in our mostly secular, post-modern age, would the mainstream media pay any attention at all to an old denomination's new hymnal? My friend Agnes Norfleet, Pastor of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church near Philadelphia, has an inkling of why this might be the case. In a recent email she commented:

We are more profoundly shaped by the hymns we sing than anything else we do in Christian community including dare I say.... preaching. Should not our approach to poverty be directly related to praising our Maker who wills abundant life for all? I heard an ATL news reporter ask John Lewis and Andrew Young once on a panel discussion celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Ministers' Manifesto what gave them the courage to forward the Civil Rights Movement at the risk of death and Lewis said, "We sang. We took the hymns of our worship to the streets and that's what gave us the courage." I dare say little is more important than hymn lyrics.

So - watch out! You never know what might happen when a new hymnal hits the pews! Thank you to all who contributed generously to make our purchase of this new hymnal possible.

Karen Sapio

Adult Education

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes and forums meet at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. In addition, there is an Adult Bible Study which meets Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and a Monday evening class.



Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m.

A special presentation by the Living Waters for The World team about our church's work installing water purification systems with churches in Peru.

Marriage in Our Time: September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Beginning with a keynote by the Rev. Duane Bidwell, this six week series will explore the state of the institution of marriage today, asking how the church is called to faithfulness with respect to cultural and legal changes.

Family Focus

This group meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 7 to share faith on the journey of being family – parenting, working, learning, and growing.

Sunday Evening Bible Study

This weekly study of the gospels, led by Pastor Karen Sapio, will resume Sunday evening, September 15, in Room 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Discovering Our Gifts, Listening for God's Call

Mondays, September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21 at 7:00 p.m.

A class that will lead you on a path to discover who God created you to be and what God's plan is for your life. Space is limited so please sign up in advance, on the patio after worship. (There is a \$20 fee for materials.)

Kick-off Sunday Is September 8

We hope to see you on September 8 for a festive Sunday kicking off a new season of worship, mission, and growth at Claremont Presbyterian Church. It will be an eventful morning.

- The Living Waters for the World team will host a gathering at 9:00 a.m. to share about their work installing water purification systems with churches in Peru.
- At 10:00 worship we will bless and pray for God's help with that work.
- A festive fundraiser meal in the courtyard after worship will provide support for Living Waters' work this fall.

Interfaith Walk and Rally for Peace and Service

All are encouraged to attend the 5th annual Interfaith Walk and Rally for Peace and Service Sunday, September 15. This event, sponsored by the Claremont Interfaith Working Group for Mideast Peace, is to promote friendship and understanding among faiths in the Pomona Valley.

The walk will begin at 4:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church at 830 W. Bonita, Claremont. The first stop, scheduled for 4:45 p.m., will be at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Avenue in Pomona. At 5:30 the group will arrive at the City of Knowledge Islamic School on Foothill & Garey in Pomona. A light communal meal will be served at City of Knowledge.



Parents of Youth Meeting! Sunday, September 8 6:00 p.m. Angell Courtyard

- ◆ Meet other parents of CPC Youth
- ◆ Hear what the youth ministry has planned for the year
- ◆ Meet adult volunteers for youth ministry
- ◆ Ask questions

Email Rocky at rsupinger@claremontpres.org if you can't make it.

Godly Play

On Sunday, September 8 we will begin our Godly Play lessons for the year. We have a team of wonderful teachers who work collaboratively to teach the Godly Play lessons each Sunday. The teachers are committed to keeping this program dynamic by adjusting the teaching goals to the needs of each child who participates in the program. Godly Play uses storytelling and the invitation each week for the children to respond creatively to the stories they hear to help children develop a sense of the beauty, mystery and wonder that is part of learning the stories of God's movement in the lives of the people of God.

In the fall our focus is primarily on foundational stories found in the Old Testament. This year we will learn about creation, the life of Moses, the Exodus, the life of Ruth, and much more. We hope that your children will join us, and participate in our learning community. Godly Play is taught twice each Sunday morning. During the 9:00 hour children age 4 - grade 1 are invited to take part in Godly Play together. Following the "Time with the Children," at 10:00 children grades 2 - 5 are invited to participate in Godly Play. If you have any questions about the Godly Play curriculum or are interested in learning more about the philosophy in which the Godly Play curriculum is based, please contact Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.

Youth Groups Starting Soon!

PYGlets for 6th - 8th graders:
Sundays from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
in the CPC Youth Room
Starts September 8!

PYGs for 9th - 12th graders:
Sundays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
in the CPC Youth Room
Starts September 8!

Sunday School for 6th - 12th graders:
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
in the CPC Youth Room
Starts September 15!

Junior High After School Group for 7th - 8th graders:
Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
at CPC
Starts September 11!

Family Ministry

Our Family Ministry at Claremont Presbyterian Church is designed to provide opportunities for fellowship and relationship between families with children of all ages in the church. During the 9:00 Educational Hour each Sunday we have a "Focus on Family" group that is intended to serve the needs of parents who want to be in conversation with one another about issues concerning faith and culture that explore the joys and challenges of raising children in our current cultural climate. This group is designed to give parents time with one another when their children are being cared for and involved in their own educational activities on Sunday morning. Please feel free to submit any ideas or topics of conversation that you would like to bring to the group.

Along with giving parents time for fellowship and discussion with one another, we also want to facilitate an environment in which families can enjoy one another, and children have the opportunity to play together across age groups and in ways that are less structured than the opportunities that they have in their Sunday morning classes. We have a number of events planned throughout the year that are designed with activities for children of all ages such as: parties, beach trips, service projects and more. Please look for announcements about these events in the church bulletin and in the *Communicator*.

Hygiene Kits for the Homeless

The CPC Board of Deacons is preparing for our annual "Bag-It Sunday" on **September 15** where we put together hygiene kits for homeless people who come to the Beta and Sova Centers that we support. We are looking for toiletry items (all in travel sizes) that you can pick up while you are travelling or shopping.

Some suggestions of items to bring are:

Washcloth, New Gym Socks,
Toothbrush, Toothpaste,
Emery Board, Shaving Cream,
Disposable Razor,
Kleenex Pack, Shampoo, Conditioner,
Deodorant (men's and women's), Comb,
Dental Floss, Hand Lotion,
Sewing Kit, Band Aids

Please drop off your donations in the church office any day before September 15.

Nursery Care

Infants and pre-school age children are welcome in our nursery each Sunday. We have a nursery staff and volunteers from the congregation who consistently provide excellent care for the youngest members of our church family. Our nursery hours are designed to let parents participate in both the education hour from 9:00-10:00, and in worship from 10:00-11:00 each Sunday morning. Please contact Krista Wuertz, our Director of Ministry to Children and Families, if you would like more information about our nursery care.

krista@claremontpres.org

People in the Church: Elaine Terry Walker

Elaine Walker is known to many readers of this column as a reviewer of books for Claremont Presbyterian Women. (See list of books she has reviewed.) But she is also a mother, grandmother, member of CPC since 1978, omnivorous reader, gifted writer, music listener, versatile cook, talented administrator and a mentor to countless students at Claremont School of Theology where she is Circulation Librarian. But, equally importantly, she self identifies as an African American, a womanist and a Southerner, any one of which designations provokes interest, especially “womanist.” “Womanist,” according to the writer Alice Walker, “is to feminist as purple is to lavender,” a far more inclusive term that takes into account the experience of women of color and appreciates women’s culture and power.

Elaine and I met for a long conversation shortly after the verdict in the Zimmerman case. The verdict, which found George Zimmerman not guilty of manslaughter and second degree murder in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, transfixed the media and political and legal pundits. Elaine and her friends agreed with a headline in the Sandy Banks article in the *LA Times* (7/16/13), “Jury’s decision may be legally correct, but it isn’t moral justice.”

The reaction of a single juror that the case was not about race brought disbelief in the African American community, Elaine said. She thinks the widespread denial that race is still an issue in this country calls for conversations about race. According to Elaine, we have never, in her memory, had a conversation about race at CPC. Strong words from a womanist, not shy, wonderfully energetic and articulate, but not a promoter of self or a seeker of recognition.

Elaine was born October 14, 1943 in Richmond, Virginia - 1 brother, 2 half-brothers (deceased), a half sister; the older siblings were adults when she and her brother were born. She has 10 grandchildren from the blended families, a great-grandchild expected in 2013. Her mother was a companion to a spinster, who was a member of the FFV’s (First Families of Virginia). Her father was a businessman, one of the owners of a fleet of taxis that served the African American community. Her middle class family protected her, and she grew up in segregated public schools, churches, public accommodations (yes, she sat in the back of the bus); nevertheless she had many cultural advantages, trips to museums, art and music lessons etc.

Her father, born in 1891, was required when he registered to vote, not only to pay a poll tax but to read and interpret a portion of the Virginia Constitution. He subsequently participated in an organization, Crusade for Voters, which paid the poll taxes of those too poor to afford them. Her parents did not shelter her from reality but provided role models of people trying to bring about political and economic (not cultural) change. Voting was an instilled family value.

Elaine graduated from the Richmond public schools, from Boston University (B.S. Journalism) and took library certification

courses at Virginia Commonwealth University and communications at Texas Tech University. She served as editor of *The Virginia Citizen*, an African American newspaper in Richmond, edited the newsletter and worked in the executive offices library at Reynolds Metal Co., was a journalist on *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* and worked in the Dayton-Montgomery (Ohio) library system. She was torn between journalism and library science but opted for library science when positions as news journalists were not readily open to women and African Americans. She sometimes wonders how her life would have unfolded had opportunities been different.

When she moved to Claremont, by then divorced and with two young boys, she worked first part-time at the Montclair and Chino branch libraries and then in the library at the School of Theology. Betty Clements, retired reference librarian at the school, says of those years, “Elaine has worn many hats at Claremont School of Theology – Circulation Librarian, Diversity Officer, Grievance Officer and Thesis Secretary – and wears each of them with extraordinary capability and grace. Her expertise and wise counsel are highly valued and deeply respected throughout the community.”

Elaine grew up in a National Baptist/American Baptist church with educated clergy (her pastor taught Greek at the School of Theology of Virginia Union University). There were thoughtful sermons, and music from Handel and Bach to spirituals (not gospel, although the spirituals often had a spirited beat). As an adolescent, she questioned the theology of her mother and the church, but found as an adult some like souls at All Souls Presbyterian Church, the only integrated Presbyterian congregation of its time in Richmond.

Her Presbyterian membership made a transition to CPC seamless, and she has played every conceivable role here from Session to Commissions, to Committees (including pastoral search) to Church Librarian, to mother of church school then youth group youngsters (Heath and Jason) and, of course, reviewer of books. Elaine says she has thrived in the institutional culture of CPC, but acknowledges that it is different from the culture of warmth and personal relationships in African American churches.

What really matters to Elaine are relationships – family, friends, professional, especially close friends, long standing friends. She has found a kindred soul in Anne Lamott, whose recent book on prayer, *Help, Thanks, Wow*, portrays God as open to the most mundane conversation and accessible to anyone, whether in faith communities, in relationships, in the natural world or in ordinary daily living. Elaine seeks spiritual solace in words and music. “Perhaps that’s why I like Anne Lamott’s book,” she says. “Personal prayer for me is spontaneous, unscripted, and in recent years I’ve found solace in words that unexpectedly leap from the page. I don’t go a single day without reading or listening to music, a variety of forms.”

(see **Elaine** on Page 5)

Elaine (cont. from page 4)

As retirement nears, Elaine is somewhat torn between east and west coasts. Her brother William, an arts consultant, and his partner live in a brownstone in Brooklyn. Her son, Jason, and family live in Maryland and Virginia. Son Heath, a single parent, lives in Pomona with four sons. Elaine irons dress shirts, cooks some meals, provides transportation, and helps with homework and college applications. She recently upgraded her phone since east and west “grands” return texts faster than phone calls or e-mails!

Elaine feels that Claremont has been good for her family. It has been a place of safety, even peace, with a rich educational and working environment, and increasing cultural diversity. Yet African Americans have faced and continue to face racism and profiling in the community. Elaine’s sons and grandsons have experienced “phony” traffic stops and extra attention from store security.

Who Are Our Neighbors? Elaine believes that as a church we need to be continually engaged in this question, and race is a part of that discussion. Doing good toward one’s neighbors is deeply Biblical and her mother’s legacy. Elaine’s mother instilled in her the desire to do good, every day, for one’s family, at one’s work, in one’s community – to be a redemptive force for good in the world. Elaine lives by this.

~Elsie Harber

Community Meal

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, September 15**. 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.

List of Books Reviewed by Elaine Walker:

- 2001 *The Poisonwood Bible* – Barbara Kingsolver
- 2002 *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* – Louise Erdrich
- 2003 *Evensong* – Gail Godwin
- 2004 *Love* – Toni Morrison
- 2005 *Four Spirits* – Sena Jeter Naslund
- 2006 *At Home in Mitford* – Jan Karon
- 2007 *Digging to America* – Anne Tyler
- 2008 *Caramelo* – Sandra Cisneros
- 2009 *The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri
- 2010 *In the Bleak Midwinter* – Julia Spencer Fleming
- 2011 *The Help* – Kathryn Stockett
- 2012 *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* – Shaffer and Barrows
- 2013 *The Bonesetter’s Daughter* – Amy Tan
- 2014 Coming in February, 2014 *Someone* – Alice

Alternative Christmas Market for 2013

Planning for our Alternative Christmas Market on **December 8, 2013** is underway! While thinking about our event I read this statement from crosswalk.com:

When the church of God works together to expand the Kingdom of God the world will see a clear picture of the grace of God!

Thus, the theme for our Alternative Christmas Market was born – ***Expanding the Kingdom of God!***

Mark your calendars and plan to join our Mission Partners as we strive to expand God’s grace in our community and across the globe. Someone is waiting for your gift of grace!

Bill & Kim Brinegar
2013 ACM Co-chairs





Conscientious Projector

Conscientious Projector is a monthly gathering of mindful, passionate people coming together to screen documentaries about important current justice issues, and to discuss these viewpoints from a variety of perspectives. Screenings are free to the public. Screenings in Claremont are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Claremont Forum, 586 W. First Street (in the old packing house.) Wednesday, September 18 the film to be screened is *Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction*.

All over the world species are becoming extinct at an astonishing rate, from 1000 to 10,000 times faster than normal. The loss of biodiversity has become so severe that scientists are calling it a *mass extinction* event.

Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction is the first feature documentary to investigate the growing threat to Earth's life support systems from this unprecedented loss of biodiversity. Through interviews with leading scientists, psychologists, anthropologists, philosophers, and indigenous and religious leaders, the film explores the causes, the scope, and the potential effects of the mass extinction, but also looks beyond the immediate causes of the crisis to consider how our cultural and economic systems, along with deep-seated psychological and behavioral patterns, have allowed this situation to develop, continue to reinforce it, and even determine our response to it.

Call of Life tells the story of a crisis not only in nature, but also in human nature, a crisis more threatening than anything human beings have ever faced before.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 07/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$273,400	\$297,500
Other Income	45,306	57,225
Bequests/Gifts	1,500	0
Reserve Transfer	0	0
Expenses	(354,352)	(369,359)
VARIANCE	(34,146)	(15,218)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 07/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$421,461	\$395,359
Expenses	(410,094)	(394,612)
VARIANCE	11,467	747

Session Digest

At its June meeting, the Session:

- Heard from the Deacons that some procedures and positions are under review in the interest of easing the workloads.
- Moved to cancel the July meeting of Session unless urgent business arises.
- Rejoiced to hear that all costs of the new hymnals have been covered by donations.
- Learned that Vacation Bible School this year was well attended and quite successful.

~ Steve Sittig,
Clerk of Session

Make Every Second Monday a Fiesta

The second Monday of each month the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center has a fundraiser at the El Rancho Restaurant on Foothill Boulevard in Claremont. **On Monday, September 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** eat at El Rancho Restaurant and tell them you are with the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center. The center will receive a portion of the proceeds and you will enjoy a delicious Mexican meal. If you prefer to eat at home you may get your food to go. Thank you for your support!



Join the Choir!

The Sanctuary Choir is starting up again for the year and we welcome any church member or friend, new or old, to join us. The choir is a fun-loving, hard-working, energetic group that loves a variety of music. Current members are always pleased when new people join the choir. No audition is required. The choir is made up of musicians of all experience levels, so you don't need to be a strong sight-reader or an experienced musician to join. All that is required is a willing spirit, and an enjoyment of singing.

Our first rehearsal is **Thursday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m.** in the choir room. Our first Sunday to sing is September 8. Looking forward to learning and singing with you soon!



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 colclough@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

Attention All Presbyterian Women

The Women's organization of CPC has undergone some changes and we'd like to take this opportunity to catch you up to date. We are being guided by a Committee consisting of Pat Beswick, who acts as Treasurer, Barbara Patch, in charge of Mission Programs, Elsie Harber, in charge of the Book Review, Carolyn Kingshill and Jane MacLeod.

We have three Circles which meet for Bible Study (September - May), two that meet in the morning on the second Tuesday each month at the Church. One Circle meets on the second Wednesday in the evening at Mount San Antonio Gardens. Our Bible Study this year (starting in September) will be based on "Exodus and Deuteronomy."

In addition to the Circle Meetings, we have two other events in which we participate. One is the Angel Interfaith Network Baby Shower, which is held in the fall. (See separate article.) The other event is a Book Review which we enjoy in February. The Book Review is led by Elaine Walker and Elsie Harber and the upcoming one will be our 13th!

We would like to invite anyone to join us in any of these activities.

Annual Project Angel Baby Shower

The Annual Baby Shower for newborns at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center will be held on **Tuesday, October 15 at Claremont Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.** This was begun as a Mitzvah Ministry project between CPC and Temple Beth Israel about seventeen years ago. It has grown to include other local congregations.

This program through Angel Interfaith Network (formerly known as Project Angel), has been very successful in supplying layette items for babies who have been born into families living at or below the poverty level. Everything from diapers, undershirts, and blankets to lotions and powders have been donated by members of local churches to guarantee that these babies have the basic supplies to accompany them home from the hospital.

We will collect these items for two Sundays prior to the shower, October 6 and 13.



The Loaves and Fishes Society: An Additional Way to Give Back to CPC

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to "give back" to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

While the annual pledge campaign provides the vital funding to support the daily operating budget of the Church, the bequest program serves long-range needs, as described in the Loaves and Fishes Society brochure. If you would like another copy of the brochure for yourself or a friend, please pick one up in the Church office – we hope it will serve as a ready guide and reference for future use.

Just as the loaves and fishes were multiplied to sustain multitudes (John 6:9), our individual bequest gifts, when combined with those of others, will have a far greater impact than any one of us could achieve on our own. Currently, thirty-two people are members of our Loaves and Fishes Society.

When you too have taken this important step, please inform one of the Pastors, any member of the Committee, or Jo Colclough in the Church office – we want to offer our hearty thanks to you, as well!



There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many?

~John 6:9

The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee
of Claremont Presbyterian Church,
Eric Bernal, Tom Duggan,
Roger House, Dee Kelley,
Karen Sapio, Stan Springer,
Kent Warner, Mike Wigton

COMMUNICATOR



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