



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

May 2016

From the Pastor

In November, the CPC Session appointed an Interim Strategy Team consisting of Kathy Croughan, Kent Miller, and Steve Sittig. This group, in consultation with Pastor Karen, was charged with recommending a staffing plan for this transition period following Pastor Rocky's move to Chicago. During the winter months, Interim Strategy Team members met with youth, the Mission Commission, Children's Center Board, The Deacons, and our Adult Education Forum to gather input. During these listening sessions, we heard a desire for stability for our children and youth as well as a desire for new energy and fresh ideas. We gathered all the contributed information and created two job descriptions: one for a 2/3 time **Interim Associate Pastor** and one for a 1/4 time **Parish Associate for Adult Education and Community Engagement**.

MAY WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, May 1 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday

Worship led by the youth of CPC

Sunday, May 8 10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:20-26

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 15 10:00 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

The Rev. Dongwoo Lee preaching

Sunday, May 22 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

John 16:12-15

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 29 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 7:1-10

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Working with San Gabriel Presbytery, the team began to look for people who would meet our temporary/interim needs. We met with people informally, interviewed formally and to the best of the team's ability, the chosen candidates were, **Krista Wertz**, for Interim Associate Pastor and **Dongwoo Lee** for Parish Associate. Session has approved both the interim staffing job descriptions and our committee's chosen candidates.

In the fall, Session will begin work toward discerning the best way forward for more permanent staffing needs. We will continue to work with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. For any permanent, installed pastoral position our congregation will form a Pastor Nominating Committee and conduct a full and open search for candidates. The Interim Strategy team is excited about the work our interim staff will do among us during the coming months.

Krista Wuertz is already well known to our congregation. She began serving as our Director of Children's and Family Ministries in 2010. Krista has a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and is completing her Doctoral work at Claremont School of Theology. Prior to her work with us, she has taught at a private elementary school in the San Francisco Bay area and worked as an emergency therapist in Montrose, CO. As our Interim Associate, Krista's work with us will expand to include working with our youth, being the primary pastoral presence with our Children's Center, regular preaching responsibilities, and working with congregational leaders to help us re-envision our work with children, youth and families. Krista is currently

working with the Committee on Ministry of San Gabriel Presbytery to complete her ordination process. We anticipate that she will go before Presbytery to be examined for ordination in September.

Dongwoo Lee is an ordained pastor in the PCUSA and a PhD student at Claremont School of Theology. He was originally ordained by a Presbyterian denomination in South Korea. In Korea he was active in congregation and youth ministries and also served as a military chaplain as part of a South Korean chaplains unit assigned to work with both Korean and American military serving in Korea. Since coming to Southern California, he has worked with New Hope Presbyterian Church in Pasadena and has worked on an Administrative Commission for San Gabriel Presbytery. Dongwoo will work with us shaping our ministries of education and spiritual formation for adults as well as helping us strengthen our relationships with the congregations and mission partners that share our campus. He and his wife live in Claremont.

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.

May 1 - Meet Rev. Dongwoo Lee

Our Interim Strategy Team chose the Rev. Dongwoo Lee to serve as our Parish Associate for Adult Spiritual Formation and Community Engagement during the interim period. Come on May 1 to meet Pastor Lee, hear about his experiences and background and some of his ideas for his ministry with us.

May 8 - Mass Incarceration

This will be the final session of Krista Wuertz's class on mass incarceration.

May 15 and 22 - Faith and Disability

New member Jeongun Hur will lead a two week seminar on faith and experiences of disability: "How can we understand God in our experience of disability? This workshop is designed for families of people with disabilities to create a safe and sacred space to share our stories and our quests in finding God in the middle of our experiences."

May 29 - Memorial Day weekend - no Adult Ed this week.



Claremont Community Wide Yard Sale

Saturday, May 14 From 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Cahuilla Park, 1717 N. Indian Hill Blvd, Claremont

Vendors will be selling their goods at over 150 spaces and will be offering toys, household goods, furniture, clothing, and more! Come early for the best choices!

Sponsored by Crossroads, Inc. Spaces now on sale! Cost per space is \$25 and additional spaces are \$20 up to six spaces total. No Refunds. For more information call (909) 626-7847.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the sale. If you can help please call Vicki at (909) 626-7847 or email her vicki@crossroadswomen.org.



CPC Sanctuary Choir Fundraising Concert Saturday, May 21 - 7:00 p.m.

Benjamin Britton's *Rejoice in the Lamb* will be a featured work.

We will also be featuring the newly refurbished organ with Geri DeMasi playing several solos. Funds raised will go toward supporting our choir interns, special concert events, and extra musical needs not covered by our regular budget. Thank you for your support!

Welcome New Officers

On Sunday, April 3 the congregation elected the following new officers.

Elders for 3 year term: Scott Randles, Elaine Walker, John Watts, Dayle Keller

Elder for 1 year term: Sue Likens

Deacons for 3 year term: Carlynn Christian, Betty Springer, Betty Butler, Teddie Warner

Deacon for 1 year term: Carol West

Thank you to all who have agreed to serve God through this important work of leadership in our congregation.

Great Getaway

Once again we will be having a "getaway" to San Clemente State Beach. This year it will be for one night, Saturday May 21. The cost is \$10 per person, and includes one night of camping, and an entrée for Saturday night, you are responsible for other meals. Check-in to the campground is at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, but you can come early to enjoy the beach. If you want to come for fellowship, but aren't a camper there is a nearby hotel, where you can stay, and then pop over for fellowship. If you wish to register you can contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

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 6th - 12th grade will meet for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Vacation Church School

**We are changing things up
this year!!!**

Join us **Tuesday through Thursday evenings, June 21-23**, as we have some old-school church camp fun! We will have dinner and arts and crafts, as well as storytelling and music around the campfire each night! Youth are most welcome to help run our church camp, and children entering kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate. There will be more information coming, as we get closer to the date. Please contact Krista with any questions or information. Please reach Krista by email at krista@claremontpres.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.



Capital Campaign Projects Progress

We hope you have all seen the solar panels on the roof of Fellowship Hall. The installation is complete and the documents needed for connecting to the "grid" have been submitted to Southern California Edison. Once approval is received, our new solar system will be up and running, hopefully before the heat of the summer.

And after several delays, the renovation of the education wing rooms is coming along. Room 7 should be fully operational by the time you receive this newsletter, complete with an area for making coffee and serving refreshments. Room 4 (which was previously the Resource Room) should be completed soon, for use by the youth groups, the Children's Center staff and other groups. Plans are being confirmed for the enclosed patio areas for each of these rooms.

Geri reports that the renovated organ console is "Wonderful!" He continues to explore all the new capacities of this marvelous instrument.



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

If you have questions, please feel free to contact 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 group

Music. Geri DeMasi, Roger House and Karen Sapio

People in the Church: Bill and Kim Brinegar

What makes you who you are? As a child Kim Brinegar had struggled to learn to read, so much so that her fourth grade teacher declared to Kim's mother that her little girl "would never amount to anything. It would be a waste to send her to college." How devastating those words must have been to a mother, to a child. But there were other voices, people who refused to give up on Kim. Eventually this fourth grade "discard" earned from the University of La Verne a B.A., an M.A., and an Ed.D. At first she elected to teach in Special Education, and you would understand why. Her heart burned with desire to help those with special needs, other children perhaps with undiscovered talents, in danger of being pronounced discards. In 1975 when Alex Hughes, assistant superintendent of Claremont Unified School District and an elder at CPC, hired Kim as a speech therapist, she brought her passion with her. She described Alex as an "earthly angel," noting that at a certain point "you understand that an angel has been placed on your path." Seventeen years later she became principal at Oakmont Elementary School. With its dedicated, talented teachers and support staff, Oakmont could well be one of Claremont's best kept secrets.

"What these children needed most of all was unconditional love," Kim said, and she modeled that for the entire school. Recess every day would find her in the center of the playground, and also in the center of a large group of children basking in her appreciation and care. One day Kim was startled to see Pastor John Najarian striding across the playground toward her. They exchanged hugs and Kim introduced him to the children. John then turned to her and said with a tone both defining and affirming, "Kim, this is your ministry." Their conversation went straight to her heart and stayed there. At times she reminded herself, "Through John O's eyes I saw God's hand placing me at Oakmont and I knew 'why' I am here."

"We never gave up on a child." Kim said that, but so did Bill Brinegar. Like Kim, he earned an Ed.D. and found a fulfilling career as an educator. But Bill has his own story.

"God broke in." That's how Bill described a signal moment in his life. He had just started a new position as Assistant Principal at Ramona Middle School, in La Verne, when one morning his secretary answered the phone and her face went pale. "There's been an accident in front of the school," she said. Rushing to the street, Bill found a student bleeding profusely from massive head injuries. It looked fatal. The boy struggled to get up, unable to comprehend his injuries. At that moment Bill felt an unexpected calmness, and sensed the presence of God: "It's ok, I am here, I will give you strength."

"You know," Bill reflected, "growing up you say your prayers, you read the Bible, you attend church, you go along. And then suddenly one day, it all becomes real. Very real." His frequent prayer now is "give me strength and guide my path."

Recalling that experience has prompted Bill to look back on the rest of his life and discover, as he puts it, "my steps have been guided." "Compelled" might at one point seem a better

word. Or perhaps even "nudged, bumped, pushed, shoved." Bill did not end up where he expected.

Bill grew up in a family of musicians and educators. As a Claremont high schooler, he made two career decisions: 1. Music. 2. NOT education. By his second year of college, however, he realized that others showed more talent. His dreams of a music career dissolved. Curiously unexpected events then happened that moved him, at first against his will and his better judgment, into a career as teacher, Assistant Principal, and Assistant Superintendent of the Bonita School District. "I loved every minute of it."

Few couples have lives more intertwined with CPC. They met as teenagers while Christmas caroling with the CPC youth group. Pastor Jim Angell married them. He baptized their daughter, Kerianne. Associate Pastor Ed Aluzas baptized their son, John. Pastor Sandy Tice married Kerianne and her husband. Now retired, Bill and Kim have turned more of their attention to CPC and its forms of service. "We have received much," they say. "Now we want to give back. There were saints and heroes of the church who were certainly models to us. Now we want to 'pay it forward.'"

In recent years Bill has served three times as a deacon, including Moderator of the Board of Deacons. Kim is now completing her second term as a deacon. Both enthusiastically detailed some of the activities of the deacons. They currently provide backpacks to Oakmont students and hygienic kits to people via Hope Partners. They organize the Alternative Christmas as well as Christmas gifts, including gift food cards, to "adopted families." They staff the post-memorial receptions. In addition they provide a close connection to their parish members, seeking to be, in Bill's words, "the face of Christ to people in your parish." Bill repeatedly praised the dedication and hard work of the deacons as they have expanded their efforts over the years.

At the time of "New Beginnings" in 2014 the deacons expanded the program of delivering chancel flowers to shut-ins, renaming them "Cheer Bouquets." That has become a favorite program of the Brinegars, especially Kim, who manages the chancel flowers. After the service the flowers are divided up and sent out, by deacons and others, to church members and others in the community. Accompanying each bouquet is a card, based on a model provided by Carol Williams' mother, which identifies Claremont Presbyterian Church and says,

"These flowers have heard
the choir sing,
the sermon preached
and the prayers of the people.
And now they come to you!"

Last year some 375 deliveries were made, not including the Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies. They provide a wonderful opportunity to strengthen caring connections. When her term as a deacon expires next May, Kim will continue the Cheer

(see **Brinegar** on Page 5)



The *Communicator* is published monthly (except in summer) by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please contact the church office by the 15th of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693, email jcolclough@claremontpres.org or fax to (909) 624-4743.

Editor: Jo Colclough

Pastor
Karen Sapio

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

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

Bill Arce Memorial Service

Please join Claremont McKenna College and the Arce Family to remember and celebrate the life of William "Bill" Arce on Sunday, May 1 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at McKenna Auditorium, 390 E. Ninth Street, Claremont (Claremont McKenna College.) The service will be followed by a reception at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, 385 E. Eighth Street, Claremont. Relaxed, casual attire is requested.

Back by Popular Demand - The People's Choice Sermon Series

For the last three summers, CPC has featured the "People's Choice" sermon series. We've received much positive feedback, so we will be doing it again this summer. Once again, during May, we will invite the congregation to suggest texts or topics for our creative preachers to tackle in during our summer Sundays.

Some of last year's topics included:
Can Christians Argue with the Bible?
What About Hell?

Christians, The Big Bang and Other Theories
Demons, Ghosts, Goblins and God

Do you have a biblical story, social issue or a thorny theological topic you've always wished a preacher would address? Send your topic to Pastor Karen at karensapio@claremontpres.org or fill out one of the suggestion forms provided in the Sunday bulletin during May.

Please let us know!

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 03/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 108,275	\$ 119,250
Other Income	23,685	24,025
Bequests/Gifts	0	0
Expenses	(134,389)	(144,107)
VARIANCE	(2,429)	(832)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 03/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 193,773	\$ 181,399
Expenses	(185,114)	(181,399)
VARIANCE	8,659	0

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

Brinegar (Cont. from Page 4)

Bouquets, calling herself an "adjunct deacon."

In reflecting on their lives both Kim and Bill have found their faith deepened, strengthened, and made vital. We all have many stories we could tell. I asked the Brinegars to talk about themselves, their relation to God, and their relation to CPC. These stories are the ones they wanted you to know. They put themselves in God's hands, they sought God's direction, and they have been blessed with rich and rewarding lives of service. Listening closely, one might hear echoes of Jesus speaking to a certain lawyer, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37)

~ Dick Johnson

20th Annual Golf Classic

Help the children and families Inland Valley Hope Partners serves by joining us for this year's Golf Classic at the Sierra Lakes Golf Club in Fontana on May 12, 2016. Proceeds from this year's event will help Hope Partners provide food, shelter and supportive services to thousands of local children and their families.

The tournament will kick-off with registration/check-in at 11:00 a.m. In-N-Out Burgers will be around for lunch, soon followed by the tournament's shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Hole-in-One contests will be conducted on the course with prizes to be presented at the evening's award dinner.

Even if you don't play golf, you can still join us! The awards dinner, starting at approximately 6:00 p.m., will feature delicious food and opportunities to win fabulous auction and raffle prizes. Plus, it all benefits the hungry and homeless in our community.

Whether you're an individual golfer, foursome, or would simply like to join us for dinner, make sure to reserve your spot today! Sponsorships of all levels are also still available. Register online by visiting the IVHP website at <http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org/>

Soup Friday

Soup Friday meets each Friday from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come for a light meal of soup and bread. Meet new people, invite old friends. If you feel inspired to bring soup or bread, please do so, but if not, please just come! Coordinators are needed to keep this project going, please contact Pastor Karen.



Meet Pastor Nova of GPIB

Nova Hidelilo-Winerungan has been the pastor of the GPIB Indonesian Fellowship for four years. Under her leadership the congregation of approximately 50 people has become a member of San Gabriel Presbytery.

Nova grew up in a Christian family on the island of Sulawesi where the majority of the inhabitants are Christian. This is very unusual in this Muslim country. Ever since she was a little girl Nova dreamed of being a pastor even though she only saw male pastors at her church. Now GPIB in Indonesia ordains women. In 1990 Nova graduated from The Christian University of Indonesia in Manado, Sulawesi where she majored in theology. Following graduation she completed a two year internship before she could be ordained. In 1997 Nova became the associate pastor of a large GPIB congregation in Jakarta where she met her husband Martinus Hidelilo whose father was the senior pastor of the church.

After the bank at which he was working went bankrupt in 2005, Martinus came to the United States to work in a factory in New Hampshire that made automobile spare-parts. He learned in Indonesia about this factory because many other

Indonesians worked there. Nova and their two daughters, Angela now 18 and Michele now 17, joined him in 2010. The whole family worked at learning English.

The family moved to California in 2012 when Nova was called to be the pastor of the GPIB Indonesian Fellowship here in Claremont. When Nova was new in New Hampshire she was invited by one of the elders in California to be the pastor of GPIB USA. The members of GPIB are happy that CPC wants to learn more about Indonesia. They know God has called them to witness and serve not only to the Indonesian community but also to all those around them. The leadership of the national church in Indonesia had told the elders to find a Presbyterian Church in California. "You will feel welcome there."

There are many difficulties facing Christian churches in Indonesia where it is hard to get a church officially registered with the government. "Being a Christian is easier here," says Nova. However some things in Indonesia are opening up. The current president of Indonesia is neutral toward religion and the mayor of Jakarta is a Christian.

~Gail Duggan

Day of the Dead Tour

This fall the Community Church of San Miguel de Allende, (where Pastor Karen Sapio served as Visiting Pastor during her 2014 Sabbatical) is once again sponsoring a Day of the Dead Tour. This tour is the congregation's primary fundraiser for the many mission projects this congregation sponsors throughout San Miguel and the surrounding villages. These projects aim to break the cycle of poverty as well as to support projects that provide emergency short term needs to the most destitute in the community.

Cost for the tour is \$1800 per person, (not including airfare)

Included in Tour Price:

- Accommodations in a private home, one bedroom/bath per couple or single guest for 7 nights, with a host watching out for you and assisting you while on tour, as needed.
- Ground transportation from the airport (BJX or QRO) to San Miguel de Allende and back
- Daily light breakfast with hosts and one main meal per day with open bar and entertainment at tour dinners
- Guided Historical walking tour of city
- Visit to rural village outreach project
- Day of the Dead cultural lecture
- Day of the Dead Altar making with cultural guide
- Participation as a Catrina in the Day of the Dead pa-rade
- Live Entertainment and Open Bar at dinner events
- Panteon Visit

Last year, CPC members Tom and Gail Duggan and Sam and Irene Atwood went on this tour and would be happy to share their experiences. For more information, please contact Pastor Karen. She can put you in touch with the tour organizers in San Miguel.



PENTECOST
Sunday, May 15

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency



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Return Service Requested

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

The Latest

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

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

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

Support CPCC

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

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.

"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!