



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2016



## FEBRUARY

### Worship Plans

**Sunday, February 7 10:00 a.m.**

*Transfiguration of the Lord*

Jazz Sunday

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Wednesday, February 10 7:30 p.m.**

*Ash Wednesday*

“The Seven Last Words:

Father Forgive Them”

**Sunday, February 14 10:00 a.m.**

*First Sunday in Lent*

Interfaith Interchange with

Temple Beth Israel

The Rev. Karen Sapio and

Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz preaching

**Sunday, February 21 10:00 a.m.**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

“The Seven Last Words: Paradise”

**Sunday, February 28 10:00 a.m.**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Krista Wuertz preaching

“The Seven Last Words:

Behold Your Son”

## What's Next??

Sunday, January 17 we had a wonderful Farewell celebration of Pastor Rocky's ministry at CPC as he leaves to continue his ministry in Chicago. Since that day, many of you have asked me, “What's Next?” “What will the new chapter of our life as a congregation look like?”

Here are some glimpses:

First: The Session reaffirms our congregation's commitment to the priorities we set as part of our New Beginnings goals last spring. We are excited about the progress that is already being made in many areas.

**Priority:** A New Commitment to Nurturing Spiritual Growth

**Beginnings:** A team has been working on making our Sunday morning worship more spiritually grounded including Connections Cards, more interaction on Prayers of the People, and more opportunities for contemplation and reflection, such as the guided meditation message on the first Sunday of this new year

Soup Fridays emerged last fall as an opportunity for growing in community among church members and friends as we break bread around a weekly common table.

**Priority:** Rethinking ministry with Children and Youth

**Beginnings:** Re-designing our Time with the Children and plans in the works for a very different VBS this summer

**Priority:** Re-engaging our Mission partners

**Beginnings:** A group attending the Indonesian worship service each Sunday. A new mission partnership with David Cortes-Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo as they begin their work as Mission Partners in Cuba

**Priority:** Exploring Parallel Starts and New Worshipping Communities

**Beginnings:** Hosting Claremont Korean Presbyterian Fellowship and helping them with the PCUSA's New Worshipping Community Grant Process.

Learning about Ground Floor Christian Fellowship and helping them explore the PCUSA's New Worshipping Communities resources and grant opportunities

Second: Session has appointed an Interim Strategy Team to work toward discerning how best to staff our congregation over the next 12-18 months to enable us to continue working toward these goals. This group began meeting last month. Their work centers on these questions:

1. What kind of staff support do we need to continue to move forward on our new goals for mission and ministry?
2. What are the sustainable financial resources we have to support our church staff?
3. Who are potential candidates in our area who might have the gifts and passions that align with our vision and goals?

The Interim Strategy team hopes to have a proposal for Session before Easter. What's Next? With God, all things are possible. We trust that promise as we move forward.

# 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.” Beginning on February 14, for Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education we will discuss James Martin’s new book *Seven Last Words*. The discussion will be led by Pastor Karen Sapio, the Rev. Dr. Tina Blair and others.

## Jazz Sunday Is February 7!

Once again we will round off the final Sunday of Ordinary Time before Lent begins with the sounds of Dixieland Jazz. Chet Jaeger and his Night Blooming Jazzmen will provide music for worship, our choir will transform itself into an ensemble of Jazz Singers and worship will take on a more improvisational style. What a joyful time to be in church! Plan to come and invite friends.



## Annual Interfaith Exchange

For nearly four decades the congregations of Temple Beth Israel and Claremont Presbyterian Church have held a winter Interfaith Exchange to encourage better understanding and friendship. This year’s exchange is scheduled for February 12 and 14. On Friday, February 12 members and friends of CPC are encouraged to attend the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Avenue, Pomona. On Sunday morning, February 14, members of Temple Beth Israel will join us for Sunday morning worship.

## Annual Meeting January 31

At our annual meeting on January 31 we will hear a 2016 budget report from Session. We will also be considering two proposals for changes to the church by-laws. During our New Beginnings process last year, we identified examining our “church infrastructure” – Session, Elders, Commissions, Committees, etc. to see if our current infrastructure was effective in supporting our goals and dreams for ministry. In good Presbyterian fashion, Session appointed a committee to study the matter. That committee currently has two proposals for change.

**Change #1 – Number of Elders and Deacons.** Our current by-laws call for each class of Elders to have five members, plus one youth elder. Each class of Deacons is to have seven members plus one youth deacon. There have been years where the nominating committee struggled to fill all the slots. The result was that some felt pressured to take on responsibilities for which they did not feel called. In addition, there have not been willing candidates for the youth positions every year. The infrastructure team would like to propose that this structure have more flexibility; that the goal of 15 elders and 21 deacons be more a guideline than a mandate. The infrastructure team suggests that the fixed numbers be replaced with a range. “Each class of Elders shall be made up of not fewer than three members, with Session comprising between 9 and 15 Elders. Each class of Deacons shall be made up of no fewer than five Deacons,

Since this year’s exchange coincides with the beginning of Lent, the theme will be explorations of how our season of Lent compares with Jewish traditions of repentance and transformation during their annual observance of Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement. In both Hebrew and Greek, repentance comes from the verb “to turn.” We will consider, what does God call us to turn from? What does God call us to turn toward?

We invite everyone to take this opportunity to demonstrate our continued commitment to reaching across differences to foster ties of communal friendship and understanding.

with the Board of Deacons comprising between 15 and 21 Deacons. The nominating committee is encouraged to consider youth for elder and deacons terms of one year if there are youth who are interested in serving and are able to commit to the requirements of this work.”

**Change #2 – Time of Officer nomination, election, and installation**

Our current by-laws call for an annual election of officers at the October congregational meeting. This squeezed any officer training into what is a very busy time in our community and congregation: Pilgrim Festival, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, etc. It also means that new officers take on their roles in the middle of our “program year” when activities are already underway. It’s a bit like trying to jump onto a moving train. The infrastructure group suggests shifting our schedule. The Nominating Committee would begin its work in January with the goal of presenting a slate of officer nominees in late March. Installation could then take place in May or June so that officer training could happen after Easter, and new Elders and Deacons would have the less busy summer months to begin their work in preparation for the beginning of the program year in September.

Please plan to be present at our Annual Meeting on January 31 to discuss and take action on these proposals.

## 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.

## 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).

## Companions on the Inner Way Retreat

Are you interested in a retreat focused on spiritual development? Join a group from CPC as we attend the next Companions on the Inner Way Retreat. Co-sponsored by the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Presbyterian Church and the San Anselmo Presbyterian Seminary, Companions retreats are scheduled twice yearly with the spring retreat always in Southern California. This spring each day will include lecture and dialogue with Dr. Luskin; small group community around spiritual

reading; corporate and individual times of silence and contemplation; worship with Eucharist; and communing with God through movement, art, and nature. Information and registration are available online at [www.cotiway.com](http://www.cotiway.com) or in the church office.

If you plan to attend this retreat please let the church office or Jeanine Robertson know so that we can plan to attend as a group.



## Capital Campaign Projects Progress

The Capital Campaign projects are moving forward in exciting ways. The drought tolerant landscaping should be about done by the end of January, weather permitting. And the organ console is expected to be returned by mid-February for installation and tuning. Geri is looking forward to getting to know it again, after all these months of his stellar piano playing.

Your flexibility in meeting in alternative areas of the education wing is greatly appreciated, as the work hopscoches from room to room. Delays have been encountered due to material shortages and competition for bidding. But take a peek in Rooms 1 & 7 and the Resource Room to see how they are progressing. Plans are also firming up for the installation of solar panels to reduce our energy consumption.

Thank you for your support to prepare our facilities for the next 60 years.

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: Nancy Rice

While talking with Nancy Rice I recall a line from a famous Langston Hughes poem, that “life ain’t no crystal chandelier.” There will be hard times. Nancy has faced many, and I hope she will tell me what has sustained her.

“We don’t know where God will lead us,” Nancy Rice notes while looking back on her life, but adds, “I know that God is leading, with love and care and concern for us.” What best makes that point? Chicago.

In a tone tinged with both embarrassment and wonder, Nancy says, “When we left Chicago that first time I said to Howard, ‘Don’t bring me back to Chicago.’ I don’t know why I said that.” But why wouldn’t she say that? Nancy had grown up in small town Wisconsin, where her entire schooling, K-12, occurred in one building. She then traveled 110 miles from home to attend Carroll College in Waukesha, where she met and married Howard Rice. Even as a little girl Nancy knew that she wanted to be helpful to others, to make her life of use and purpose to the world and society. Yet nothing had prepared her for a large city like Chicago. Her first time there, while Howard was a student at McCormick Theological Seminary, was intended to be temporary. She expected to put down roots elsewhere.

Five years later, 1960, after ministering in inner city Minneapolis, Howard learned of an opportunity in Chicago. He and Nancy, with two young daughters, decided to go. “I sang hymns in the car all the way from Minneapolis to Chicago.” Nancy knew she and Howard were embarking on a life among a people – poor, black, Hispanic — Nancy had never previously experienced. “I was afraid they wouldn’t accept me.”

This time Chicago proved to be a life-changing event for Nancy “and for our children too.” Their eight years in Chicago during the sixties were “a difficult but wonderful experience, a time of growth. We embraced different cultures and races. I learned so much. We became close to absolutely beautiful and wonderful and loving people. I admired their quality of life. They were so poor, so real, and so giving and caring.”

One story stood out. A Hispanic woman in the church had a son who was killed in Vietnam. One Sunday she arrived with all the compensation provided by the government and put it in the collection plate. Knowing of her poverty, Howard and Nancy tried to dissuade her. “I made a commitment to Jesus,” the woman resolutely said, “and I couldn’t keep it. Now I can keep it.”

That story seemed to hang in the air surrounding the rest of our conversation. At various times Nancy would note, “Loss always involves something good. There is a negative but there is always another side.”

Chicago, Nancy said, was where they were “meant to be.” Or so it seemed. But then... Howard began to experience a weakness in his legs and a gradual loss of mobility. In 1964 a doctor misdiagnosed it as multiple sclerosis (actually it was spinal cord damage, correctly diagnosed only 35 years later). By 1967 the doctor advised Howard to leave Chicago for health reasons.

Their work in Chicago had been very rewarding. The congregation had tripled in size, a new beautiful church had been built and they were reluctant to leave. To make things worse, no other church wanted to hire Howard, limited to crutches and a wheelchair, as their new pastor. “Bleak” was how Nancy recalled it. Eventually the San Francisco School of Theology created a two-year position for a lecturer in urban ministry with no promise beyond that. The Rices moved to San Anselmo. I neglected to ask Nancy how many hymns she sang that time.

Despite his disability Howard and Nancy thrived. They loved every minute at SFTS, loved the students, loved thinking, and loved life. “We had an open door policy in our home and the door revolved constantly.” Recognizing his talents, SFTS moved him to a permanent position as chaplain and professor of ministry.

SFTS gave Howard a new platform from which to speak to the needs of the church, and he made the most of it. He trained generations of Presbyterian leaders while publishing six books. In 1979 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The following year he traveled extensively speaking at various churches and organizations.

Nancy traveled also, and found that she too had a voice to raise in support of peacemaking and opposition to nuclear weapons. “I was on the road speaking almost as much as Howard.” Serving on the PCUSA Peacemaking Committee, Nancy helped to write the 1983 Commitment to Peacemaking that many presbyteries and churches, including CPC, adopted. Nancy also served as chair of the Marin County Nuclear FREEZE Initiative Campaign, and chaired both Northern California Presbyterians For Peace and Justice, and the Redwood Presbytery Peacemaking Committee.

After retiring to Santa Rosa, Nancy was very active in the United Nations Association of Sonoma County. She and Howard came out of retirement to serve at the Cook School for Native American Leadership in Tempe, Arizona. The Rices moved in 2005 to Pilgrim Place.

Nancy recently turned 84. Life now appears as a time of transition, of slowing down. I asked Nancy if she would talk about her losses and how she deals with them. There are the deaths of family members: Howard, daughter Wendy, son John, and other close relatives. Nancy speaks frankly, “So much loss in ten years. I carry a lot of grief.” In addition there are the losses associated with aging. And there is in every life those times, hopefully rare, when God feels distant.

Nancy always loved music. She was a talented pianist. Hearing aids now ameliorate her loss of hearing and make conversations possible but music has become nothing but noise. “I feel so separated in many ways because of that.” The challenge is to accept it. “I am trying to find joy in my silence.” Nancy copes with other physical aspects of aging as well. She has joined two

(see **Nancy** 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, February 8 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 12/31/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 487,913	\$ 500,000
Other Income	83,530	103,100
Bequests/Gifts	3,000	0
Expenses	( 613,378)	( 626,707)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 38,935)</b>	<b>( 23,607)</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 713,711	\$ 700,460
Expenses	( 712,801)	( 700,460)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>0</b>

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

## Nancy (Cont. from Page 4)

discussion groups where topics of aging are considered. Once again she confronts this aging process as she declares to me, "If I use it as an excuse that's not right." I hear echoes of Dylan Thomas.

Accompanying loss are feelings of loneliness and aloneness. Sometimes God feels far away, but on that topic Nancy is adamant. "When I feel lost, God does not leave me. I leave God. I have to find my way back to God."

CPC plays an important role for Nancy. "After ten years I am beginning to feel much more at home at CPC." Nancy served as an Elder and a Deacon in hopes of meeting more people. Worship remains very important. "I need and want to come to church at CPC." And speaking of Pilgrim Place, Nancy affirms, "I feel so lucky to have this opportunity to be among wonderful people, to have these rich experiences. Even with all the hard times, I have no reason to feel that I have been cheated. I have been blessed in God's leading."

There is loss. And there is good. The challenge is to find the good and embrace it.

I learn this from Nancy Rice.

~Dick Johnson

## Soup Fridays Are Back!

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 February!

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 is back for its fourth season in Southern California with five great speakers for 2016. Tickets are \$50.00 for the full series or \$15.00 for single lectures. The lectures will continue to be held at local churches with CPC hosting Rabbi Arthur Waskow of Philadelphia on February 21. Rabbi Waskow was the first speaker when Agenda for a Prophetic Faith originated at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. See Stan Springer for tickets.

### Sunday, February 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

James Carroll, Boston *Globe* - Author, *Christ Actually: The Son of God for the Secular Age*  
"Pope Francis, Laudato Si, and the Flourishing of Creation"  
Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, 724 E. Bonita Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773

### Sunday, February 21, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Author, *God Wrestling: Ancient Wisdom, Future Paths*  
"Understanding the Biblical Jubilee for our Time"  
Claremont Presbyterian Church, 1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711

### Sunday, February 28, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Steve Rohde, Chair of *Death Penalty Focus* and *Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice*  
"Repairing a Broken Criminal Justice System"  
La Verne Church of the Brethren  
2425 E Street, La Verne, CA 91750

### 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 Street, Claremont, CA 91711

Agenda FOR A  
Prophetic  
Faith proclaim Jubilee

Join Claremont Presbyterian Women and friends for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Book Review and Luncheon on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The featured book is *Some Luck* by Jane Smiley, the first novel in a trilogy about Iowa farm life (and beyond) and what it means to be family. Leanne Kerchner will introduce the author, and themes and characters will be explored by Elaine Walker.

Please contact Pat Beswick for individual reservations or tables of eight. The donation requested is \$15.00. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women.

## Rabbi Brant Rosen

Rabbi Brant Rosen will speak at Decker Hall on the Pilgrim Place campus at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 28 on "Wrestling in the Daylight: A Rabbi's Path to Palestinian Solidarity," a frank explanation of the evolution of his thinking from a liberal Zionist to outspoken critic of Israel's unjust treatment of Palestinians.

Rabbi Rosen is currently the Midwest Regional Director of the American Friends Service Committee. In August, 2015, he founded Tzedek Chicago, a new 'non-Zionist' synagogue in Chicago. Rosen previously served as the rabbi of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Illinois. He is a former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and is co-founder and co-chairperson of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council.

The presentation is sponsored by the Claremont Group of Friends of Sabeel, North America. For more information contact Dick Johnson.

## Souper Bowl of Caring - February 7

Your CPC youth will be collecting donations following worship on Sunday, February 7. All funds collected will be sent to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona to provide food for hungry people. Please give generously.

# COMMUNICATOR

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**Return Service Requested**

**Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: February 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!

## **Save the Date!**

The Great Getaway will be Saturday through Sunday, May 21-22 at San Clemente State Beach Campground. This event is for everyone! Come camp or just come for the evening fellowship. Put the date on your calendar now!

## **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.

## **Newcomer’s Round Table - February 7**

On Sunday, February 7 we will have a Newcomer’s Round Table on the patio following worship. We invite people who want to know more about our church to join us on the patio for more information and conversation over a cup of coffee and treats. If you know someone who is interested please invite them to come. And feel free to join in the conversation as we discuss what this church is all about!