



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2015



**DECEMBER**

## Worship Plans

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

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Nativity Seen: Map View

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

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

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Nativity Seen: Map View

Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

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

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Christmas Breakfast before worship

Nativity Seen: Street View

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sanctuary Choir: Prepare Him a Room

**Thursday, December 24**

*Christmas Eve*

5:00 p.m. Family Oriented Worship Service

Jaeger Brass Choir on patio

following early service

11:00 p.m. Traditional Lessons & Carols

with Sanctuary Choir

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

*First Sunday after Christmas*

Carol singing with Jaeger Brass Choir

Nativity Seen: The View from our Hearts

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

## From the Pastor

**D**o you have a Nativity Scene at your house? If you do, you are continuing a tradition which began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Saint Francis of Assisi created a living Nativity Scene in a small Italian village to help the people there understand the significance of the Feast of the Nativity, (also known as Christmas.)

Nativity scenes come in all shapes and sizes. The one I brought back from Peru includes llamas. I saw one in the cathedral in Santa Fe, New Mexico which featured a Chihuahua standing guard by the manger. Lego even produces a Star Wars themed nativity set.

Our theme for Advent and Christmas this year is "Nativity Seen" – a play on words. In the frantic business of this season, how do we truly see and remember the meaning of Jesus' birth? As people of faith, can we take time at Christmas to re-dedicate our lives to showing God's love? Can our church re-commit to being a place where Jesus' presence is clearly seen and demonstrated not just at Christmas but all year? How do we create a season full of not only Nativity Scenes, but of Nativity Seen – in our homes, in our church, in our community, in our world?

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.*

*Karen Sapio*

## Christmas Joy Offering

**E**ach year on the Sunday before Christmas, Presbyterian congregations express profound appreciation for our clergy and other servants of the Church by receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. We honor our church leaders both for their faithfulness in tending to our spiritual needs and in recognition of their decision, in many cases, to answer the call to ministry rather than pursue a life of material comfort.

A Presbyterian tradition for nearly 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering gives vital funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as well as to Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools and colleges.

Please give generously on December 20.

## Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

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



**Sunday, December 6** - Presbyterians and Refugees

John Hill and Octavio Guerrero will lead a forum in which they will:

- Answer frequently asked questions about the crisis in Syria, including the extent of displacement of people over the past 4-1/2 years and highlighting the need for the U.S. to accept more refugees
- Briefly recount the connections that our congregation has established and nurtured over the past many years in the Middle East
- Give an overview of the networks of Presbyterians and others who are addressing the crises throughout the Middle East
- Describe an action plan in which our congregation can participate now and in the coming months

Please join us to celebrate  
the holiday season!  
**Traditional CPC  
Christmas Party  
& Ornament Exchange**  
Saturday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Kent & Teddie Warner's

No RSVP necessary – just come!

### PLEASE BRING:

A wrapped, fun, inexpensive ornament  
to exchange  
(one per person who wants to exchange)  
Beverage of your choice and  
**A hearty Hors d'oeuvre or Dessert**  
Children welcome

## Christmas Pageant December 13

Come one, come all to experience the sequel to last year's modern day re-telling of the traditional Christmas story we all love. The CPC Pageant (written again by the youth and our current Artist in Residence, Amanda Colclough) will be presented by the toddlers, school-aged children, and youth with their vibrant expressionism and 21<sup>st</sup> Century humor during worship on Sunday, December 13.

You won't want to miss it!

## Adopt A Family

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Christmas time is rapidly approaching and with it comes our annual Adopt a Family program. Each year the Deacons at Claremont Presbyterian Church coordinate this program in which we "adopt" families from the local community to try to help them have a happier Christmas than they might otherwise have.

We have six families this year so there will be plenty of options. Just choose a "wish" and purchase the item. Wrap it and return it to the church by December 13. Your Deacons will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

If you don't have the time, or don't care to shop, you can always make a monetary donation and a Deacon will do the shopping for you. Write your check to CPC and denote "Adopt a Family" on the memo line. Or send your donation through Paypal.

The generosity of the people at CPC never fails to amaze us. We are eternally grateful.

Merry! Merry!

~Doug & Judy Carrington

## Poinsettias

Planning is underway to decorate the Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. You are encouraged to participate by donating to the Flower Fund. Traditional poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary and donations will be acknowledged in the December 20 worship service bulletin.

Following worship, Deacons will share the glory of Jesus's birth by delivering poinsettias to CPC members who are hospitalized, ill and homebound. Please use the "Advent and Christmas Poinsettia" form included with this *Communicator*.



## 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. There will be a time of music and movement with our nursery age children from 9:15-9:45 each Sunday morning.

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. In December we will be focusing on Advent.

Please note that Godly Play will not meet on Sundays, December 13, 27 or January 3.

## Christmas Breakfast

Invite your friends and family to join you on **Sunday, December 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m.** for a Christmas Breakfast Social in Fellowship Hall. No reservations are required. This holiday breakfast fellowship was started by the late Daisy Najarian, and has become one of CPC's traditions. This is a great time to share the Christmas spirit with your CPC family.

If you would like to offer to bring a dish to the breakfast or to help at the breakfast, please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

Hope to see you there!

## Soup Fridays Are a Hit!

Our Friday evening gatherings around soup, bread and conversation have been a big hit. Each week we have had 25-35 people in Fellowship Hall enjoying delicious soups such as Minestrone, Green Lentil, Butternut Squash, and Vegetable Beef. These events are free and open to anyone who would welcome a warm bowl of soup around a table with new and old friends at the end of the week. You don't have to bring anything to participate. You may choose to bring soup or bread as the Spirit moves you. So far, the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes has repeated each time and we've had more than enough for all.

**More soup in December  
Fridays 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall**

## Special Music for the Season

The Sanctuary Choir is preparing a special musical Sunday for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 20. In keeping with the Advent theme of 'Nativity Seen', the choir's music will focus on the actual elements of the stable in Bethlehem, the holy family, the shepherds, wise men, animals, and the angels. Some of the music will be drawn from a longer work by Jazz musician Dave Brubeck called "La Fiesta de la Posada." It was written using traditional Mexican tunes and rhythms so all the rest of the choir's music will be drawn from traditional Spanish carols and texts as well. Trumpets, guitars and percussion will be accompanying the choir.

## Advent Bible Study: Do Not Be Afraid

During December, our Sunday evening Bible Study will shift to the Advent theme: Do Not Be Afraid. We will explore three stories from the Advent lectionary in which an angel says these words.

Sunday, November 29: The Angel to Mary  
Sunday, December 6: The Angel to Joseph  
Sunday, December 13: The Angel to the Shepherds

The Sunday evening Bible Study is led by our Seminary Intern Danyang Zhao and Pastor Karen Sapio and meets from 7:00 - 8:15p.m. in the church library



"...You will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."  
Luke 1:31

## Incarcerated Women's Holiday Gift Project

**A** CWIP (Action Committee for Women in Prison) advocates for the humane and compassionate treatment of all incarcerated women.

This Christmas, CPC has an opportunity to partner with ACWIP. ACWIP will provide 5,000 holiday gift bags to women incarcerated in Southern California Prisons, Fire Camps and County Jails. These are the only gifts many of these women will receive.

### You can help by providing gift items:

shampoo and/or conditioner (travel size)  
body wash and lotion (travel size)  
toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, hair ties  
coffee, tea or cocoa packets  
stationery - writing paper, envelopes  
wrapped pieces of candy

Monetary donations will also be accepted. Just drop a check in the offering plate. Be sure to denote "ACWIP" on the memo line.

## Dr. Faith M. Jones Endowment for Global Mission Established

**I**n memory of Faith Jones who passed away early this year, her sister and brother-in-law Anna and Jerry Bedford have made a generous gift to Claremont Presbyterian Church to establish a fund for world mission.

The gift of just over \$100,000 will be invested with the Presbyterian Foundation. Each year the income from the fund will be available to our congregation to extend its work in world mission beyond the capacity of the annual mission pledge which is part of our operating budget. The Bedfords have asked that we give special priority to work involving young people and women as well as efforts in which the whole congregation is engaged.

Faith Mahleah Jones was born to Welsh missionary parents in Lan P'ing, Yunnan Province, SW China. In 1939, the pending Japanese invasion hastened the family's return to Cardiff, South Wales, where they also survived the World War II bombing of their home.

In 1953, her family immigrated to the USA. Faith enrolled at Wheaton College in Illinois, where in 1960, she earned a BSc in Nursing and an RN at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park. She next qualified as a midwife in Britain and practiced midwifery in East-end London and rural Wales.

## Capital Campaign Projects Progress

**Y**our generosity to the Capital Campaign is beginning to make a difference at CPC. Renovation in Room 7 is well under way, with new windows and lighting installed, French doors to be installed in December, and flooring and cabinets on order. Work will begin in the Resource Room in December, along with the installation of a sink in Room 7 and new fixtures and flooring in the bathrooms across the hall.

Meanwhile you have hopefully noticed the drought tolerant landscaping project on the north side of the campus. And the digitizing of the organ console is moving forward as expected.

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



Returning to Chicago, from 1965-1977 Faith designed and administered a program to train Chicago inner-city students in practical nursing. In 1971 she received an MA in Education from Roosevelt University, and in 1977 a Doctorate in Education from Loyola University.

In 1985, Faith accepted a call to New South Wales, Australia as head of Cumberland School of Nursing at the College of Health Sciences. There, she established Master's and Doctoral programs emphasizing multicultural education. As a result of Faith's efforts to develop higher education for nurses in Hong Kong, Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and other countries along the Pacific Rim, the School was designated as a WHO Collaborating Center and Faith was appointed to the executive committee.

Faith's passion was seeking justice and acting on behalf of women in need worldwide. She served as a deacon at Claremont Presbyterian Church and at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago. In Sydney, she was an ordained elder at St. Stephen's Uniting Church, and, upon retirement, earned an MA in Theology from United Theological College to better serve as Chairperson of the Congregation and worship leader.

**Don't Forget your Pledge!**

Thank you to all who have pledged their financial support to CPC for 2016. Our goal is \$515,000. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please do so at your earliest convenience. Pledge cards are available in the pew rack and in the church office.



## PW Book Review and Luncheon

Save the date for Claremont Presbyterian Women's Book Review and Luncheon on Saturday, February 13, 2016. *Some Luck*, the book chosen for this 16<sup>th</sup> annual event, spans 33 years and is the first novel in a trilogy about a Iowa-rooted farm family. According to one reviewer, the central theme is: What makes a family? Award winning author Jane Smiley has been described as a "meticulous historian," an "intelligent humorist," and an exceptional storyteller. Elaine Walker and Leanne Kerchner will gladly exchange pre-luncheon thoughts with readers. Pat Beswick will be accepting reservations soon. Watch for details.

## 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 10/31/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 397,612	\$ 416,667
Other Income	54,554	85,916
Bequests/Gifts	0	0
Expenses	( 513,208)	( 522,256)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 61,042)</b>	<b>( 19,673)</b>
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 593,862	\$ 583,717
Expenses	( 594,920)	( 583,717)
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>( 1,058)</b>	<b>0</b>

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

## Year End Giving

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to fulfill our 2015 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2016. If you are in this group, thank you for your support.

For some, however, 2015 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or restricted. If unrestricted, the Session may choose to use your gift to close our 2015 books on a positive note.

If restricted, you may designate your gift to support a particular part of our Church's program and outreach.

You might think of your special gift as a Christmas present to CPC, for all that our Church means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: if your gift is made by December 31, it may help reduce your 2015 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

*~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee*



## Dinner for a Good Cause

Claremont Presbyterian Church maintains a Children's Center that provides care for children from six weeks of age to Kindergarten.

On the second Monday of each month you have an opportunity to support the 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, December 14 between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. and tell them you are with CPCC (Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center.)** You may eat at the restaurant or take your food to go. What could be easier?



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

Dear Claremont Presbyterian Church,

The past eight years have been as full of joy as any could be for Meredith, Laura, and I, and so our decision to take a new call in Chicago was a very, very difficult one indeed. From our earliest days here, even before Laura was born, you embraced us, supported us, and befriended us. We will always be grateful to you as the people who paraded Laura around the patio, invited us into your homes, and prayed for us during these formative years.

Speaking as your Associate Pastor, I cannot quantify all the things you have enabled me to do. You sent Scott Randles and I to Princeton to study science and religion together; you sent me on mission trips with youth to Mexico, Peru, Louisiana, Abiquiu, and Denver. You supported my term as Moderator of the presbytery and my stint as co-chair of a NEXT Church conference. You eagerly embraced my experiments with the Tapestry Youth Collective. For sure, I am in a position to move on to a different church with a different set of challenges only because of the things I have learned under your care.

Several people have asked me these past several days how long I have been looking for a new call, and while I'm resisting that characterization of what has brought about this new call, the fact remains that, even if I wasn't actively looking for somewhere else to serve, I was open to the possibility. There is no easy answer to that question, then. I have not been unhappy here. Yet I have been open to considering other opportunities where I might be challenged in new ways, even though serving at Claremont has allowed for a variety of opportunities and learnings, most of which I could not have anticipated way back in 2008.

This church is well-served by Pastor Karen. She has been a generous colleague to me, providing a balance of freedom of guidance that must have been tricky for her to achieve. She is wise and dynamic, and I am the pastor I am in large part due to her leadership.

I hope that the next two months provide us the opportunity to say a hopeful goodbye to one another. I am certain that my words will fail to convey the depth of my gratitude for your welcome and support of me and my family. Nonetheless, I will try.

With God's Blessing,  
Rocky

## Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

If updating your estate plan is on your year-end "to do" list, be sure to remember CPC in your planning!

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program here 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. Since the founding of the Society in 2008, more than thirty people have become members, by informing the Church that CPC is included in their estate plans. We'd like to welcome you, too!

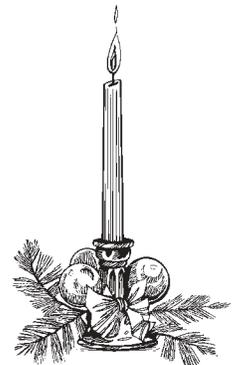
Questions? Pick up a copy of our bequest brochure in the Church office or at the Information Kiosk on the patio after church any Sunday morning. You'll be glad you did – and CPC will be grateful to you.

~ The CPC Special Gifts and  
Endowment Committee

## World AIDs Day Service & Candlelight Walk

On the evening of World AIDS Day, Tuesday, December 1, you are invited to stand in candle light with friends and neighbors to remember the millions lost to AIDS globally, and to express compassion and support for our neighbors impacted by HIV/AIDS across the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.

Co-Sponsored by Foothill AIDS Project, we will nurture our neighbors living with HIV and remember loved ones lost to AIDS. The service at Claremont United Church of Christ begins at 7:00 p.m. and the six block long walk begins at 8:00 p.m.



## 2016 Pledge Envelopes

If you have submitted a pledge for 2016 and indicated that you will pay weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

# COMMUNICATOR

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(909) 624-9693

**Return Service Requested**

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

## **Contribution Note**

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2015, all donations for 2015 must be either: placed in the offering plate by December 27, 2015, brought to the office by **noon Thursday, December 31** or postmarked by December 31, 2015. Checks that are placed in the offering plate on January 3, 2016 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2015 even if the check is predated to 2015 or was actually written in 2015.

## **“Like” Us on Facebook**

CPC has a Facebook page. Look for the Claremont Presbyterian Church page on Facebook and click on “like” to begin receiving news feeds about what is happening at CPC.

Be sure to share it with your friends!

## **Prayer Chain**

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. Contact 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.

## **Baby Holders Needed**

Do you love babies? Would you love the opportunity to snuggle a darling little baby? The Claremont Presbyterian Children’s Center is looking for adults to volunteer to hold babies in the infant room on weekdays, especially between the hours of 7:00 to 9:00 in the morning and 11:00 to 2:00 in the afternoon. If you would like to volunteer, contact CPCC Director Sacha Lord at (909) 626-6261.