



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

November 2013

NOVEMBER



Worship Plans

Sunday, November 3 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Timothy 4

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 10 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 19:1-10

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 17 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 65:17-25

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 24 10:00 a.m.

Christ the King Sunday
Philippians 4:4-9

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
Advent Event Following Worship

Wednesday, November 27 7:00 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Worship
at Temple Beth Israel
3033 N. Towne Avenue, Pomona
All are welcome!

From the Pastor

...you will be a blessing - Stewardship 2014

CPC's Stewardship Team has selected this quote from Genesis 12 as our theme for our Stewardship Campaign for 2014. *The Lord said to Abraham and Sarah, 'Leave your country and your kindred and your parents' house and go to a new place that I will show you. I will bless you . . . so that you will be a blessing'*

In last month's *Communicator*, I reflected that Stewardship is really about the flow of blessings in the world. Blessings come to us from God and flow around us and through us to others. Stewardship is about our willingness to be one of the channels through which God's blessings flow into the world.

This story from Genesis also shows that there is a strong connection between the flow of God's blessings in the world and our willingness to take risks and step out toward the unknown. God promises to bless Abraham and Sarah as they leave what is familiar and secure and set out for new place – something they have not seen except in the dreams that God has put into their hearts.

Stewardship is like that too: when we give to the work of the church, it is not the same at all as making an investment with a sure and certain return. It is a way of saying "yes" to God's call to each of us and to all of us to step out in faith toward the dreams that God has put in our hearts; dreams of a community of followers of Jesus Christ that put flesh and bones on the Gospel and live in our community as living blessings.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge to the work of Claremont Presbyterian Church in 2014, embrace the wonderful possibilities of risk and blessing.

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.

Living Gratefully - November 3, 10, 17, 24 - Room 1

Come at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings in November for a forum on Thanksgiving and gratitude.

Family Focus - Room 7

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 Looks toward Advent with The Prophet Isaiah - Room 1

This weekly Bible Study, led by Pastor Karen Sapio, meets Sunday evenings in Room 1 at 7:00 p.m. November will begin a new series for our Sunday evening Bible Study. From November 3 - December 8 the group will study the portions of Isaiah that appear in the Scripture readings traditionally assigned to Advent and Christmas. Newcomers are always welcome.



The Courage and Compassion to Do the Right Thing

The courage and compassion to do the right thing. That's a key message that resonates with audiences when they hear author Marty Brounstein talk about his book *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. It's a true story of interfaith courage and compassion about a Christian couple in the Netherlands, who despite great risk and danger, help save the lives of two dozen Jews during World War II and the Holocaust. This husband and wife, Frans and Mien Wijnakker, were ordinary people who end up doing extraordinary things.

On **Sunday evening, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.** members of our local community will have the opportunity to hear this moving tale directly from the author when he speaks at Temple Beth Israel.

"Like Oskar Schindler, Frans and Mien Wijnakker stood up to help in a time period when such courageous actions were few and far between," says Brounstein. "I feel fortunate to be the humble messenger of these two heroes."

The evening is co-sponsored by Temple Beth Israel and Claremont Presbyterian Church – a special interfaith story for a special interfaith event, and it grew out of a chance conversation Brounstein had with TBI member Andy Weissman. The talk is being co-coordinated by Cantor Paul Buch of Temple Beth Israel and Rev. Rocky Supinger of Claremont Presbyterian.

"The fact that I am speaking on this special story is in many respects quite unexpected, for this story is one I stumbled into by accident while on a trip to the Netherlands during May 2009. Little did I know then that this visit would lead me to

one day write a book, being lucky enough to find a publisher for it, and then become as I often say, "An author on a journey with a mission."

Over the past two years, Brounstein has participated in over 200 events in churches, synagogues, schools, bookstores, libraries, Rotary Clubs, workplaces, community centers, book clubs, and people's homes. "My mission has become to keep sharing this story, as audiences and readers have found it to be both educational and inspirational. They have encouraged me to keep telling this story," says Brounstein

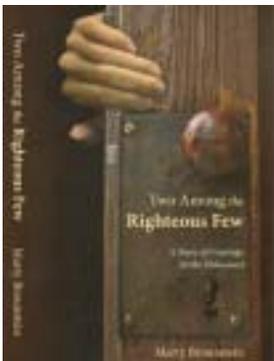
"Many people are often moved by the very *meaningful personal connection* I have to this story," Brounstein continued, "one that has me saying, 'Thank God for the courage and compassion of Franz and Mien Wijnakker.'" Brounstein promises to reveal this personal connection toward the end of his talk.

The entire community is invited to attend.

Parish Associate David Lutz Retires

Our CPC Parish Associate, The Rev. David Lutz is retiring. He has served our congregation since 2008, coordinating our Deacons' ministries, assisting our Pastors with visitation, as well as occasional teaching and preaching. Our whole congregation joins in thanking David for his ministry among us and wishes him well as he enters "full-time" retirement.

We have been blessed by your work among us!



Sunday Morning for Children and Youth

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

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Music and Movement for grade 2 – grade 5
Godly Play for age 4 – grade 1
Youth 6th - 8th grade Sunday School Class
Youth 9th - 12th grade Sunday School Class
Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Music and Movement for age 4 – grade 1 (after Time with the Children)
Godly Play for grade 2 – grade 5 (after Time with the Children)
Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k
- 11:15 a.m. - noon Choir for youth 6th grade through high school (every other week)

Godly Play

In the month of November we complete our lessons from the Old Testament about the ways in which the people of God learned to worship God through different experiences and events in history. This year we are also introducing lessons to the children that focus more specifically on the lives of individuals that the children learn about in Scripture. In November the children will learn about the life of the prophet Isaiah, and they will hear the story of Ruth.

Our lesson schedule this month is as follows: November 3, *The Ark and the Temple*, November 10, *The Exile and Return*, November 17, *The Prophet Isaiah*, November 24, *The Story of Ruth*. Please see the children's programming schedule for more information about class time, and contact Krista with any questions about Godly Play at krista@claremontpres.org.

Community Meal and Advent Event

On Sunday November 24, 2013 we will have a community Thanksgiving Style meal and Advent craft workshop event in Fellowship Hall following worship. Turkeys will be provided, and you are encouraged to bring your favorite side dish to share. Along with the meal, there will be the opportunity for individuals and families to create Advent related craft projects that will help you to decorate your home during this season of preparation and anticipation.

There will be side dish sign-up sheets in your bulletin on the Sundays preceding the event. An RSVP is appreciated, as it will help us know how many turkeys to purchase. To RSVP, please fill out an insert for the event in the Sunday bulletin or contact Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.

Nursery Care

We have nursery care available every Sunday for infants and pre-school age children. We offer nursery care through both the 9:00 education hour and the 10:00 worship hour. Please contact Krista if you have any questions about our nursery at krista@claremontpres.org

No Question

Presbyterian Youth Retreat
November 9 - 11
Big Bear Lake



Come experience a community of young people looking to change the world.

No question: we'll dig deep.

No question: we'll play hard.

No question: we'll worship, worship, worship.

Sense of adventure required.

No question.

Who: 6th - 12th graders

When: 2:00 p.m. 11/9 - 11:00 a.m. 11/11

Where: Big Bear Lake Christian Camp and Conference Center

Cost: \$150 for two nights lodging, five meals and t-shirt

Register: Online at www.sangabpres.org

Info: Rocky (909) 802-4907

People in the Church: Brenda Barham Hill

When she was six years old, Brenda Hill's father suggested to her, "You should think about becoming an engineer." In her mind Brenda silently formed images based on the children's shows she had seen on TV: Captain Kangaroo? Engineer Bob? Engineer . . . Brenda?

At age six, you hesitate to tell your father, especially one who is a career naval officer, that he has somehow lost his marbles. Brenda quietly filed away the suggestion deep within the recesses of her mind. It did not re-emerge until she was in graduate school and had another conversation with her father. "It finally dawned on me what he had meant." It had been her father's dream to become an engineer, and he had hoped to pass it on to her. By then, however, she was well on her way to achieving a Ph.D. in Administration in the area of higher education. Too late! All those fans of Captain Kangaroo will never know what might have been. . .

But that's another story, one left to the fiction writers. Brenda's father had escaped the poverty of rural Arkansas, where he grew up, by joining the Navy in 1929. December 7, 1941, the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, found him fortunately out at sea aboard the USS Enterprise, en route to Pearl from Wake Island. Among its nicknames, the Enterprise became known as the "Big E" and the "Lucky E," as it was one of only three aircraft carriers commissioned before WWII that survived the war. The Japanese on three separate occasions erroneously announced that they had sunk the Enterprise. But that too is another story.

Brenda grew up as a "Navy brat," born in Oakland and living "all over the place," including Japan and several Southern U.S. states. Returning to California at age 16, she finished high school and enrolled at Occidental College, having a general notion that she wanted to study International Relations. Staggering through two semesters of economics classes [sorry Gordon Douglass, it's not your fault, you were not her instructor] cured her. She jumped ship and landed instead in American Studies. After graduating she gained a Master's degree in Education from Claremont Graduate School and became employed in Student Development at California State University, Bakersfield.

Brenda said she never had a career plan. "I simply wanted to be challenged and to contribute." The position at Bakersfield, however, did not have all the challenges she desired, so by the early 1970's she was back at CGS in the Ph.D. program. Her course of study included an internship at La Verne College, and that's where her career took off. The college liked Brenda, gave her plenty of challenges, including teaching several courses. As her administrative talents emerged, others took notice. In 1979 she became Associate Provost and later Senior Development Officer of the Claremont University Center and Graduate School. From 1986-2000 she served as Vice President of Planning and Research for Scripps College. In 2000 she became the Chief Executive Officer of the Claremont University Consortium, where she served until retiring in 2007.

It was through teaching one course at La Verne College, "Managing Change and Conflict", that Brenda met John Hill, an L.A. County Sheriff. John likes to joke that he had to marry the teacher in order to receive an A. Brenda, however, confides that he never took her class; she met John through the intervention of his supervisor, who was actually the student in her class. They married in 1980 and soon began attending Claremont Presbyterian Church.

John was a "solid Presbyterian" tracing lineage back to his grandparents. For Brenda, it was much more complicated. Brenda's mother had been raised in the Brethren Church in Indiana. On her father's side, her father's grandfather had been a "circuit rider" in the South, preaching "hellfire and brimstone." The result: while Brenda's aunt became a fervent Southern Baptist, her father avoided the inside of a church whenever possible. When Brenda was young her parents would drop her off at the Naval base Sunday School but never enter church themselves. While living in Virginia in the 5th grade, Brenda regularly walked to a Presbyterian Sunday School, but left one day when she realized that the church would not allow Communion to those who had not been baptized. Such exclusion seemed terribly wrong to her. The following year, while attending a Methodist church, Brenda went to her "first of several baptism classes." The outcome each time, however, was frustrating. At the end Brenda was always told she would be required to affirm tenets of Christianity that she felt she could not possibly know to be true. The commandment says "Thou shall not lie," so how can you say something is true when you don't know for yourself that it is true?

"Why didn't you have me baptized when I was young?" Brenda at one point asked her parents. "Because," her mother replied, "your father wasn't interested and we Brethren don't believe in infant baptism."

Consequently, despite Brenda's regular attendance and multiple contributions to the life of CPC, she has never been baptized and never joined a church. To insure that their own daughters would not face a similar dilemma Brenda and John had them baptized as infants. She did not want anything to stand in their way of affirming a church like CPC as a valuable, worthy institution for themselves, for the community, and the world. She wanted CPC to nurture their spiritual life, to provide teachings that helped them grow to be good persons, and to become aware of that "part of God in all of us."

For myself I say kudos to Brenda, both for her honesty and for her desire to remove any stumbling blocks that might prevent her daughters, Lauren and Adrienne, from appreciating and cherishing their life in the church. But it raises a question that the church itself often finds difficult to answer: what is our identity? When we are asked the basic question, "do you believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior," some of us can say "yes" wholeheartedly, others may quietly say, "I believe,

(see **Brenda** on Page 6)

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, November 20 the film *Cesar's Last Fast* will be screened.

Cesar's Last Fast is a multi-platform feature documentary film about the private sacrifice and spiritual conviction behind Cesar Chavez's struggle for the humane treatment of America's farm workers, and the impact Chavez's legacy has on today's generation of organizers fighting for farm worker rights. The film is built around powerful, *never-before-seen* footage of Chavez's 1988 "Fast for Life," a 36-day act of penance for not having done enough to stop growers from spraying pesticides on farm workers. The story of this water-only fast is the film's dramatic arc into which the filmmakers interweave the historic events that defined the life mission of America's most inspiring Latino leader and the struggles confronting today's farm workers.

Community Meal November 17

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, November 17**. On that date, volunteers are needed to (1) prepare a food item for 20 people and bring it to Summer 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.

Run to Live Charity Race

www.runtoliverace.org



The Run to Live Race will be on **Saturday, November 9 starting at 7:00 a.m.** at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas. There will be 10k and 5k trail races, and a Kids' Race.

We are still looking for volunteers, sponsors, participants, and supporters for this event. Please visit the website and join our Facebook group. We would like for this to be an annual event, with the proceeds helping provide clean drinking water for communities in need through "Living Waters for the World," and realize the vision of natural playgrounds at the Children's Center. In addition to the races, the event itself will include children's and family games and activities, music, food, and opportunities for fellowship.

"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.

Cena Sur-Americana (South American Dinner)

The Association of Presbyterian Men (Asociación de Hombres Presbiterianos) of Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a South American Dinner (Cena Sur-Americana) on **Saturday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

They will offer a menu of typical meals of some South American countries, typical music, cultural programs, and Christian fellowship.

The requested donation is \$10.00 per person.



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

Pastors

Karen Sapio
Rocky Supinger

Church School

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

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

Brenda (cont. from page 5)

help my unbelief,” while still others may say “yes” without wanting to know exactly what it means. Then there are those who acknowledge that real faith is inhabited by mysteries that we cannot possibly fathom or understand. Now, what is our response to those who answer this basic question differently from us? What is it that makes us a church?

~Dick Johnson

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, November 11 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!



Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 09/30/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$360,170	\$382,500
Other Income	56,430	73,575
Bequests/Gifts	1,500	0
Reserve Transfer	0	0
Expenses	(454,138)	(475,641)
VARIANCE	(36,038)	(19,566)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 09/30/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$533,765	\$508,319
Expenses	(525,537)	(507,359)
VARIANCE	8,228	960

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

Someone

Someone by Alice McDermott, available now at Amazon and recently listed on the best seller fiction list in the LA Times, is the choice for Presbyterian Women's Annual Book Review with Elaine Walker on **Saturday, February 8, 2014** in Fellowship Hall. The time and menu will be disclosed later, but cost is the same, \$15.00 per person. If you wish to reserve a table, it is not too early to call the church office at (909) 624-9693 with your request. This year, in an addition to the PW planning committee, Tracy Doebler will oversee the menu and the meal. Gayle Jensen, Elaine Newton's daughter, whose talents were so appreciated last February, will continue as caterer. If you dip into the book ahead, you may speculate on the cuisine!

Newcomer's Orientation Sunday, November 17

If you have been visiting Claremont Presbyterian Church and would like to learn more about our congregation, we invite you to our next Newcomer's Orientation **after worship on November 17** in the church library. (The library is inside the church office.) This is a chance to find out about our history, our current ministries and our visions for the future.



For in the one spirit we were all baptized into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13

Don't forget that Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3. Be sure to set your clock back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2



CHS Choir Show

You can see at least two youth from Claremont Presbyterian Church at the Claremont High School Choir Show on **October 28 & 29, or November 1 & 2 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Claremont High School Theatre. Thomas Randles and Alejandro Salas are both members of the Chamber Singers, the advanced choir at CHS. The show will feature pop music and is called "As Seen on TV!"

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Return Service Requested

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

Caring Friends Ministry

What household goods, from furniture to flatware, do you have that could be useful to newly arriving Iraqi refugees settling in our area? Contact the church office at (909) 624-9693 to schedule a pick up of these items so they can be passed on to Caring Friends Ministry.



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.

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.