



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

January 2013



JANUARY

Worship Plans

Sunday, January 6 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday
Dr. Calvin Taylor
Special Music

Sunday, January 13 10:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord
The Rev. Brian Ellison,
Covenant Network Director, preaching

Sunday, January 20 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Ordination and Installation
of New Elders and Deacons
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, January 27 10:00 a.m.

*Annual Interfaith Interchange
with Temple Beth Israel*
Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz preaching

From the Pastor

If you are reading these words in January 2013, we can assume that the interpretation of an ancient Mayan prophecy that said the world would end in December 2012 turned out to be false. Phew!

I was struck, however, by something a friend posted on her Facebook page in early December. It was a picture of some graffiti that said, "No tengo miedo que se acabe el mundo en el 2012. Tengo panico que siga igual!" In English – "I'm not worried the world will end in 2012. I'm afraid it will stay the same."

As the new year begins, we all see much about the world that we want to change: situations in our personal lives where we seem to be stuck, repeating the same unhealthy patterns, situations in our families that don't seem to get better, problems at work that never seem to get resolved. Most of all, we fear more of the desperate tragedies that replay themselves in our world: violence, poverty, hunger, loneliness.

Each year as January begins, Christians observe the Feast of the Epiphany, which celebrates the revelation of the light of Christ to the world. Christian writer Evelyn Underhill once wrote that the movement from Christmas to Epiphany mirrors the movement that all Christians must make in their journey of faith. It is not enough that Jesus was born, his light needed to shine into the world so that the world would know the significance of his birth. Just the same, she noted, it is not enough for Christians to exclaim over the baby in the manger, they must also bear his light into the dark places of our souls and the dark places in our world.

Seeing as how the world did not end in 2012 – mark Epiphany by pondering how you can be part of important work toward making sure it does NOT stay the same.

Karen Sapio

Annual Claremont Presbyterian Church/ Temple Beth Israel Exchange Set for January 27 and February 1

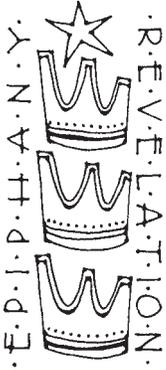
For over 30 years the congregations of Claremont Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Israel have conducted an annual exchange to promote interfaith friendship and learning. This year leaders and members of Temple Beth Israel (TBI) will be part of CPC's worship on Sunday, January 27. Our Pastors and choir will help lead Friday night services at TBI on February 1st. All CPC members and friends are encouraged to attend. Temple Beth Israel's services begin at 7:00. The Temple's address is 3033 North Towne Avenue in Pomona.

Dr. Calvin Taylor to Lead Worship Epiphany Sunday

On Epiphany Sunday, January 6, Claremont Presbyterian Church has a unique opportunity to welcome nationally known church musician Dr. Calvin Taylor to our Sunday worship service. Dr. Calvin Taylor has prepared a unique sermon-in-songs worship experience featuring Scripture followed by musical selections. Included are piano solos or congregational singing based on preceding Bible passages. The theme for his participation in our service will be the Light of Christ and the many forms in which it appears to us.

Dr. Taylor has a connection to Claremont through a long time friendship with Wendy Losh, organist at Claremont United Methodist Church. He will also be presenting a concert there Sunday evening.

We are delighted to have Dr. Taylor's creative leadership in our worship as we celebrate this final holy day in our Advent/Christmas season.



Dr. Calvin Taylor

Sunday
January 6

10:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Church
1111 N. Mountain Ave.
Claremont

A Unique Worship Experience

www.calvintaylormusic.org

Sunday Morning Schedule for Children & Youth

Sunday Mornings there are faith-nurturing activities for children in pre-school through high school all morning long. Godly Play begins again on January 6.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Music and Art for grade 3 – grade 5

Godly Play for age 4 – grade 2

Youth Sunday School Class with Larry and Jeanine (grades 6 - 8)

Youth Sunday School Class with Linda and Octavio (grades 9 - 12)

Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Music and Art for age 4 – grade 2 (after Time with the Children)

Godly Play for grade 3 – 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)

Covenant Network Director Coming to Claremont

The Rev. Brian Ellison, Executive Director of The Covenant Network, will be in Claremont January 12 and 13, and you are invited to take part in his visit. Claremont Presbyterian Church has been an active supporter of The Covenant Network and its mission of making the church as “Just and generous as God’s grace,” for several years.

On Saturday, January 12, Brian will address a gathering of people from across the region about present focus of the Covenant Network. This gathering is open to the public and will take place in Fellowship Hall at CPC from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

Brian will also give a keynote address during the 9:00 adult education hour at CPC the next day, after which he will preach in worship.

We hope everyone in the CPC community will take advantage of Brian’s visit. Please call Pastor Rocky with any questions.



Claremont Presbyterian Church
Invites You To An Afternoon With

The Rev. Brian Ellison

Executive Director
The Covenant Network
of Presbyterians

A Place for All God's Children: LGBT issues in The PCUSA And The Work of The Covenant Network

Saturday, January 12th
2:00 PM
1111 Mountain Avenue in Claremont
For Further Information Call: (909) 624-9693

Distinguished Speaker Series

Progressive Christians Uniting has arranged a series of five lectures by distinguished speakers to be given at five local churches (including CPC) beginning February 24, 2013 and running through April 7, 2013. Tickets for all five lectures are \$40.00. Individual speaker tickets are \$10.00. The speakers, location and lecture subjects are:

Dr. James Hanson, NASA: “Global Warming and It’s Worse than We Thought”
Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont United Methodist Church

Bishop Minerva Carcano: “The Dream Act and a Just Immigration Policy”
Sunday, March 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Romal Tune: “The Problem of Mass Incarceration”
Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church

Dr. Norman Ornstein: “It’s Even Worse Than It Looks, But There Is a Way Out”
Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont United Church of Christ

James Carroll (Boston Globe): “Toward a Civil Society”
Sunday, April 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at La Verne Church of the Brethren

Abuse Prevention Courses

Each year it is our practice to provide abuse prevention training here at Claremont Presbyterian Church. This training is mandatory, and it is our church policy that any staff or volunteer who has not attended this training in previous years, and who, in the course of their staff or volunteer duties at the church has contact with children under eighteen, disabled adults, or any dependent adults, attend this training. This training is required for the staff of the Children’s Center, our Deacons and Elders, and all other volunteers that work with the children or youth in any capacity. Dr. Bill Brinegar will be presenting the course three times this January. If you need to attend this training, please choose one of the following training dates to fit your schedule:

Sunday, January 20 - after church - in the Southwest Room.

Thursday evening, January 24 - at 6:00 p.m. - in Room 7.

Sunday, January 27 - after church - in Room 7.

The church office
will be closed on
Monday, January
21, in observance
of Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day.



People In the Church: Octavio Guerero

“Why do I have to get up at 6 a.m.?” a young Octavio Guerrero complained while growing up in Mexico. His parents, both professional agronomists, would take Octavio with them as they drove their car to local villages and farm communities where they encouraged farmers to try new farming techniques and new varieties of wheat and maize. Only a child, Octavio did not then realize that his parents were part of the Green Revolution, one of the most important achievements of the 20th century. Pioneered in Mexico by agronomist Norman Borlaug, it is credited with increasing the food supply throughout the world, saving over one billion lives, and enabling major economic improvements in Mexico and the developing world. Young and sleep-deprived, Octavio only understood that his parents were helping people, and that was important.

Today Octavio takes part in another key development that is also saving and improving lives around the world: making available clean drinking water. In North America we tend to underestimate the importance of this effort. When we compare it to heralded major advancements in medicine and pharmacology, we are surprised to learn that not those advancements but rather improving water quality has been the single most important factor in increasing health and longevity during the 20th century.

Much has happened to Octavio between then and now. When you hear Octavio’s story you might be reminded of the Book of Esther where Mordecai says to Esther: “Who can say but that God has brought you [here] for just such a time as this.” Trace the lines of his story and you don’t see this coming, but much of his life might now be seen as preparation for what he presently accomplishes.

In Mexico Octavio graduated from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon where he focused on the field of Structural Design. Soon he was working in Monterrey for KBR (formerly Kellogg Brown Root) whose main offices were in Houston. Traveling several times to Houston on assignment, Octavio came to realize that his own values and career opportunities would be served much better in the United States than in Mexico. “Here you can live a good life without being corrupt,” he explained. He was able to acquire a Permanent Resident card and in 2003 he received a job offer from Technip, a company in Claremont.

Once he found a place to live, Octavio began to look for a church. Growing up in Mexico, Octavio was a proud “third generation Presbyterian,” the product of Presbyterian mission efforts early in the 20th century. “We were evangelical and very strict – no drinking, no dancing, lots of prayer,” Octavio explained, noting that in a predominantly Catholic country Protestants needed a separate lifestyle to emphasize their contrast. In Southern California Octavio at first sought out Presbyterian churches with Spanish-speaking services, which led him first to CPC (“too small”) and then to Colton each Sunday with some Filipino friends. It left him unsatisfied. “I wanted more involvement, and the price of gas also began to weigh on me.” So he decided to try the English-speaking service at Claremont Presbyterian Church.

On his very first Sunday Octavio attended an Adult Education program. Coincidentally (or was it coincidence?) the program focused on U.S. immigration policy. “I was hooked!” Octavio exclaimed, gesturing with his hands and mouth to imitate a fish caught on a hook. “I felt so welcome! I loved this church!” To him CPC was truly an inclusive church with a strong social conscience. It reminded him of the benevolent aims of his parents. Soon Carolyn Kingshill invited Octavio to join the Mission Commission, where Octavio learned of and marveled at all the groups that CPC tried to help do good work. “CPC gives me knowledge and involvement in the larger community. I need that, I crave that. I now have the best of both churches: from Mexico there is my foundation, here I get to learn new things and help others. I am very happy!”

As you might imagine, there were major differences between CPC and the church Octavio knew in Mexico. There people seemed to be more “warm, close, with a strong sense of commitment. If you had a problem you shared it with the pastor.” Here he notes the congregation as a whole is much more affluent. Making the adjustment was difficult for Octavio, but it eased greatly when he met Pastor Rocky Supinger. “He is like our pastors in Mexico. I know God uses him.” Octavio said.

In 2009 Pastor Rocky asked Octavio to consider becoming involved in the Living Waters for the World project. The San Gabriel Presbytery wanted to become a partner and was seeking people who could help. Octavio was interested. Living Waters for the World was conceived in the

(See **Octavio** on Page 6)





Octavio (Cont. from Page 5)

early 90's by Wil Howie, a Presbyterian minister who believed that the Synod of Living Waters, of which he is a member, could literally bring life-saving, "living" water to people throughout the world.

Since its inception, LWW has partnered with mission teams to empower local community leaders to install and operate over 400 clean-water systems in major developing areas of the world where there was available but contaminated water, and in 2005 it expanded its mission to address water quality issues in the Appalachian Region of the United States.

After training in Northern California, Octavio made the first of several trips to Peru to install clean water filtration systems in several Peruvian villages. He has been joined by Sam Atwood, Roger Denton, and others who have returned to share their experiences with our congregation. For Octavio, his project is the living water that saves lives in a medical sense, but it is also "the living water of Jesus Christ" that he experiences and shares.

Octavio trusts in God and says that "we are instruments only for God to use." When he was younger, God seemed to him almost magical. "I would pray to God for something and it would appear, almost instantly." Sometimes it did not happen so quickly, and on reflection Octavio realized that perhaps he had prayed for the wrong thing. Now, he says, he no longer asks for things. While every decision involves much prayer, "I just need to listen. Now I can hear. I know God has a plan for me."

~ Dick Johnson

Make Each 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, January 14 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!



Session Digest

At its November meeting, the Session:

- Learned from Pastor Karen of some obstacles in the Presbytery's recent dismissal of two congregations to a new denomination.
- Discussed a new fencing project for the Children's Center.
- Approved plans for a Lenten season program involving the whole church.
- Made plans for a December meeting welcoming new elders to session.

~ Steve Sittig
Clerk of Session

Welcome New Officers

We welcome new officers who begin their term of service this month and thank them for their commitment to Claremont Presbyterian Church. New Elders are Tom Bleakney, Kathy Croughan, Gail Duggan, Sandra Kindle and Barbara MacKenzie. Our new Deacons are Mary Elyousef, Karee Galloway, Louise Gustin, Sue Likens, Sally Lopez, Gennie Ransom (co-deacon with Karee Galloway) and Ann Wilson.

Blood Drive January 27

From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, the American Red Cross will be set up to take blood donations in the Fellowship Hall at CPC. Opportunities to schedule a time to donate in advance will be available after worship on the patio on January 13 and 20. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 11/30/12	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$460,240	\$473,917
Other Income	72,323	81,308
Bequests	40,265	
Reserve Transfer	20,000	0
Expenses	(570,407)	(573,243)
VARIANCE	22,421	(18,018)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/12	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$622,829	\$563,616
Expenses	(598,924)	(563,539)
VARIANCE	23,905	77

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



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

Common Threads Project: Children, Youth, and Family Weekly Support Groups

Inland Hospice and The Clinebell Institute are partnering to offer grief and bereavement support groups for children, youth, and families.

Grieving is a process that very often involves the entire family, not just an individual child or adult. Families do tend to grieve as a whole and can heal as a whole providing they have the right information and guidance. Children have a unique way of mirroring the progress, or lack of progress, of their families through these difficult times. When all parts of the family are brought together in a supportive environment, growth, bonding and love can be achieved.

Instead of the loss of a loved one being a stumbling block which follows us through our lives, we learn from our tears and challenges and grow closer together. This simple statement is the goal and focus of the Children, Youth, and Family Bereavement Group.

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
January 28, 2013 to March 18, 2013
Pilgrim Congregational Church
600 N. Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

Four groups offered concurrently:

Children ages 6-10
Children ages 11-13
Children ages 14-17
Parents

These groups are offered FREE by Inland Hospice Association and The Clinebell Institute. Call today to register or for more information: (909) 399-3289.

Pledge Envelopes for 2013

If you submitted a pledge to CPC for 2012 and indicated that you would be paying weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick them up in the Narthex.

If you indicated that you would be paying annually but would like envelopes, please contact Jo Colclough at (909) 624-9693.

Annual Meeting February 3

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, February 3, 2012 following worship. Reports of the church's life in 2012 as well as a budget for 2013 will be presented. Please plan to be there.

Elaine Walker Luncheon/ Book Review

Time: Saturday, February 9, 2013 12:00 noon

Place: CPC Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$15 per person

Reservations: Call the church office at (909) 624-9693 for individual reservations or tables of 8.

Those of you who delight in Elaine Walker's annual book review, please be apprised that reservations are necessary. Since the book is Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, the setting spanning China to San Francisco, Presbyterian Women are planning a catered luncheon with a Chinese theme.

Gayle Jensen, Elaine and Dick Newton's daughter, who catered the luncheon at the congregational meeting on October 28, will be providing a buffet featuring Chinese dishes. Gayle and her business partner, Kim McCurdy, will remain to oversee and serve.

Our book, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, by Amy Tan, meets the three criteria we set 12 years ago: a book by a woman writer; an exploration of a culture other than our own; and religious, ethical, and/or spiritual dimensions for discussion. The book plunges the reader into three generations of Chinese culture, the painful clashes and hopeful outcomes. Read ahead and make an early luncheon reservation.

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; just bring an open mind and a desire to discuss! 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.)

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 3

On the day when football's last two teams square off for ultimate victory, CPC will join with churches and community groups all over the country to defeat hunger. By bringing with you to church that Sunday extra dollar bills to drop into the large soup kettles that CPC youth will be managing, you can be part of that Super cause. All of the money collected at CPC's Souper Bowl of Caring goes directly to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona to provide food for hungry people. Game on.

Annual Reports Due

Annual Reports by all Commission, Committee or Board Chairpersons are due by January 15. Please send your report to Joan Leibeck, CPC Office Manager. You may email the report to joan@claremontpres.org or bring it on a thumb drive or disk or bring a hard copy to the church office. For more information, call Joan at the church office at (909) 624-9693.

COMMUNICATOR



Claremont Presbyterian Church
1111 North Mountain Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 624-9693

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

“Like” Us on Facebook

Claremont Presbyterian Church now has a facebook page. You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres>.

If you are already a member of facebook, use this link, sign in to your facebook account and click on the “Like” button. (Or you can just search for Claremont Presbyterian and choose the one under “Pages”.) News feeds from CPC will now show up on your home page.

This is a great way to keep up with what is happening at CPC and to share what is happening with your friends.

Prayer Chain

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. Call the church office at (909) 624-9693 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.

Thank You for Your Service

Thank you to our outgoing class of officers who have faithfully served Claremont Presbyterian Church. Retiring Elders are Tim Bovard, Ruth Currie, Jane Douglass, Jeanne Master, Scott Randles and Dakota Santana-Grace. Deacons who have completed their term of service are Jenny Eazell, Bernadine Greenwood, Peggy Trindle, Jean Perry, Janet Siedschlag and Rita Watts.

Website Photos

Photographs are often taken at church events. These photos may be posted on the church’s public website. The individuals in those photos will not be identified by name. 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.