

# INTERCOM

JANUARY 2013, Volume 54, No. 1

## SAYING THANK YOU

*Saying thank you is more than good manners.*

*It is good spirituality.*

*~Alfred Painter*



This past year the Personnel Commission gathered the staff of the La Verne Church of the Brethren for a morning retreat. We spent time reflecting on how each person in the room makes it possible for every other staff person to do his or her job. It was amazing to realize how our jobs interface with each other. Imagine what it would be like if every member of the congregation sat down and contemplated the varied ways that every other person in the church enhanced their life journey.

As we begin another calendar year, the staff of the La Verne Church of the Brethren would like to express our gratitude to you, the members of this church family, for all that you do to make this a church home of vibrant welcome for each and every person here. Thank you for the hours you spend on committees; serving in the kitchen; ushering; bringing beauty; providing music; volunteering in the church office; sharing the message of God's welcome with others; serving in our community; donating your money, time, and expertise and so much more. You are here and out in the world in more ways than we can even begin to name. We are humbled by your service.

Handwritten signatures of church members, including: Susan Boyer, Kathleen Krecklow, Tom Hostetter, and others.

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*The La Verne Church of the Brethren continues the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together. We create a Christian community, called by Christ to be inclusive, caring and peace-minded. We affirm that people of any race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, faith tradition, or life situation are welcome in our congregation. We believe in compassionate service, stewardship of creation, respect for diversity and nonviolent reconciliation for differences among all people, nations and faith traditions. We claim no creed but the New Testament, as exemplified by the life of Christ. We strive to follow the way of Jesus. Through these efforts, we seek to grow ever closer to the mind and heart of God.*

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*The Intercom is provided monthly by the La Verne Church of the Brethren to inform, connect, and share our faith journey with you. If you would like to have information included in the next issue of the Intercom or have suggestions you would like to share, contact the Editor, [stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net](mailto:stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net), or the Church Office, (909) 593-1364. We also invite you to visit our website at [www.lavernecob.org](http://www.lavernecob.org)*

## January Worship Themes



JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY  
*Off By Nine Miles?*

Susan Boyer

The magi followed the star to Israel and stopped in Jerusalem. They were off by nine miles. It was Herod who redirected them. How often have you stopped too soon? Holy Communion will be part of this service.

Micah 5:2-4, Isaiah 60:1-7, Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY 13

The Wrong Side of History

David Radcliff

David Radcliff is the director of New Community Project. His areas of emphasis are living responsibly with the earth, living respectfully and justly with our neighbors, and generally confronting the culture of consumption for our own spiritual health and for the good of the planet, its people, and coming generations. David leads learning tours around the globe and has traded in his car for a bicycle. David's sermon will focus on how the evidence of history over the past 2000 years does not show widespread "progress" of the kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven, with even the church wandering from the light on many occasions during that span. Those of us who believe are on the 'wrong side of history'--the minority side, the underdog side, the outsider side. We will dedicate our church leadership in this service.

John 1:6-13

JANUARY 20

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY

*Excessive Altruism*

Susan Boyer

Martin Luther King Jr. often recounted the story of the Good Samaritan asking the question, "Who is my neighbor?" In the challenges that face us in this time, excessive altruism towards our neighbor may be the only answer.

Luke 10:25-37

JANUARY 27

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

*The Art of Losing*

Susan Boyer

Losing those we love is a painful journey from sorrow to hope. People have been trying to survive and make sense of death and grieving since we came into being. On this Memorial Sunday we will remember those in our congregation we have lost in the past year. We will also be given time to pay tribute to our own deceased loved ones.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

## January Calendar

- Jan 1 New Year's Holiday - Office Closed
- Jan 3 Headstart Readers, Library, 9-10:45 a.m.  
No Choir/Bell Rehearsal tonight
- Jan 5 Kathy Whittington Memorial Service, 1:30 p.m.
- Jan 6 Lenten Interest Group formation begins
- Jan 8 What is the Old Testament?, Hillcrest, 3 p.m.
- Jan 9 WABS (Wednesday Afternoon Book Study), Library, 4 p.m.  
Book of Esther Bible Study, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.
- Jan 10 February Intercom Articles Due, 5 p.m.
- Jan 12 Church Leadership Retreat, Fellowship Hall, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Walt Ebersole Memorial, La Verne Presbyterian, 3 p.m.
- Jan 13 Youth Lunch with David Radcliff, Social Hall, 12 noon
- Jan 14 Vegan Potluck, Social Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 15 What is the Old Testament?, Hillcrest, 3 p.m.  
ULV/LVCOB Food Network Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 16 Fellowship Visitors, Library, 9 a.m.  
Book of Esther Bible Study, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.
- Jan 20 New Member Class, Library, 9:15 a.m.  
Church Council and Youth Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, After Worship
- Jan 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Office Closed
- Jan 22 What is the Old Testament?, Hillcrest, 3 p.m.
- Jan 23 Communications Committee, Fireside Room, 4:30 p.m.  
Book of Esther Bible Study, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.
- Jan 26 Coffeehouse, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 27 Greeters Breakfast, Hillcrest, 8 a.m.  
New Member Class, Library, 9:15 a.m.  
Family Fun Games & Picnic, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan 29 What is the Old Testament?, Hillcrest, 3 p.m.
- Jan 30 Book of Esther Bible Study, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.

**9:15 a.m. Sunday School—10:30 a.m. Worship**

**Hillcrest Sunday Chapel Services**  
**Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel – 4 PM**  
Located at the west end of Maple Court.  
All are welcome.

### January 2012

- 6 Chaplain Tom Hostetler
- 13 Randy Gardner, Pomona First Baptist Church
- 20 Hannah Lewis, Chaplain Intern, Claremont School of Theology
- 27 Chaplain Tom Hostetler

**La Verne Church of the Brethren**  
**2425 E Street, La Verne, CA 91750**  
**Phone: (909) 593-1364**  
**E-mail: [office@lavernecob.org](mailto:office@lavernecob.org)**  
**Website: [www.lavernecob.org](http://www.lavernecob.org)**  
**Ministers: Susan Boyer, Janet Ober, Tom Hostetler**

### **2013 Leadership**

**Board Chair: Al Clark,**  
[aclark@laverne.edu](mailto:aclark@laverne.edu)

**Moderator (vice chair/chair, Personnel): Christine Meek,**  
[cmeek@laverne.edu](mailto:cmeek@laverne.edu)

**Moderator Elect (chair, Gifts Discernment): Julia Wheeler,**  
[jwheeler@laverne.edu](mailto:jwheeler@laverne.edu)

**Church Clerk (secretary): Joe Cahill,**  
[km-cahill@verizon.net](mailto:km-cahill@verizon.net)

**Christian Education chair: Dena Gilbert,**  
[dena.gilbert@gmail.com](mailto:dena.gilbert@gmail.com)

**Envisioning chair: Jack Meek,**  
[jmeek@laverne.edu](mailto:jmeek@laverne.edu)

**Peace & Justice chair: Beth Snowden-Ifft,**  
[b.snowdeniff@mac.com](mailto:b.snowdeniff@mac.com)

**Service chair: Dot Hess,**  
[dothess41@gmail.com](mailto:dothess41@gmail.com)

**Property chair: Tom Evans,**  
[evans2020@gmail.com](mailto:evans2020@gmail.com)

**Spiritual Life & Nurture chair: Shirley Boyer,**  
[boyerduo@yahoo.com](mailto:boyerduo@yahoo.com)

**Stewardship & Finance chair: Tim Nelson,**  
[timnelson@gmail.com](mailto:timnelson@gmail.com)

**INTERCOM is the monthly newsletter of the La Verne Church of the Brethren**

**Editor: Stephanie Juillerat,**  
[stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net](mailto:stephanie.juillerat@verizon.net)

**Writers: Staff and contributors**

**Production: Kathleen Krecklow**

**Ministry of Encouragement**

**January 6, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

**Conference Room**

The ministry of encouragement is available Sunday January 6 in the conference room, 9:15-10:15 a.m. This month we'll begin by talking about the art of grace. What do you need to heal in your life? Who do you need to forgive? How can you respond graciously when others are wrong? Our goal is to create a safe space to listen to our boldest, most sensitive, and most eccentric voices. For more information contact Reba Herder at (951) 204-3574.

**For Such a Time as This**

**A Bible Study on the Book of Esther**

**Four Wednesdays in January**

**January 9, 16, 23, 30 at 7 p.m.**

**Fireside Room**

At the end of the Bible Study on Ruth we did in October, someone said, "When are we going to have our next Bible Study?" The answer is: "In January." Join Susan Boyer for a Bible Study on the Book of Esther. Come meet Vashti, Mordecai, Haman, and Esther. Bring your own Bible.

**Young Adult Food Network**

Food Network has adjusted its schedule for the second half of the academic year. Working around events at ULV and Spring Break, the new dates are:



- January 15, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- February 26, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- March 26, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- April 16, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- May 21, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

As always, all young adults from the church, the community, and the college are welcome. Also, kitchen and hospitality volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, send an email to [www.corathome@verizon.net](mailto:www.corathome@verizon.net) or call (909) 981-7739. Those wishing to know more about Food Network in general, please contact Janet Ober at [Janet@LaVerneCOB.org](mailto:Janet@LaVerneCOB.org) and (909) 593-1364 or Zandra Wagoner at [zwagoner@laverne.edu](mailto:zwagoner@laverne.edu) and (909) 593-3511 x 4446.

**Membership Class**

**January 20, 27, February 3, 10**

**9:15 - 10:10 a.m.**

If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Brethren or interested in joining the La Verne Church of the Brethren, consider being part of the next Membership Class. Susan Boyer and Julia Wheeler will teach this four week class beginning on January 20 in the church library. It would help with planning if you let Susan Boyer ([susan@lavernecob.org](mailto:susan@lavernecob.org)) know if you would like to participate.

**Wednesday Afternoon Book Study**

**(WABS)**

**January 9, 4:00 p.m.**

**Church Library**

Everyone is invited to the Wednesday, January 9 meeting of the Book Study group, where we will discuss *The Timekeeper*, by Mitch Albom and *The Shoemaker's Wife*, by Adriana Trigiani. Meetings are held the second Wednesday afternoon of each month in the Church Library and begin at 4:00 p.m. We welcome ideas for good reading and hope you will consider joining us.

**Church Leadership Retreat**

**January 12, 8:30 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

On Saturday, January 12, beginning at 8:30 a.m., a Leadership Retreat will commence in the Fellowship Hall. The Church Officers, Commission Chairs, members from nine commissions, and the Communication Committee will gather to review our progress on the goals set for 2012. Later in the day, discussions will be centered around creating valuable goals for 2013. This Retreat will serve as the monthly Commission meeting for January. All who received an invitation are encouraged to attend this important event.



## Coffee House and Talent Show

**Saturday, January 26, 6:30-9:00 p.m.**

Back by popular demand, the Senior High Youth will be hosting a Coffee House this month featuring local talent and delicious treats. Singers, dancers, jugglers, impressionists, musicians, and comedians are all welcome to register to perform. Look for a sign-up sheet in the courtyard starting January 6<sup>th</sup>. There is no age minimum or maximum for performers! Hot and cold drinks, along with sweet treats, will be sold at the Coffee House.



If you can donate cookies, cakes, or other confections, please contact Janet Ober and plan to bring your donations to the church office on Friday, January 25 or to the church kitchen on January 26. There will be no admission fee, but donations will be accepted, and proceeds from the food sales will help with expenses for Christian Citizenship Seminar and National Youth Conference.



## Church Council Lunch:

### A Youth Fundraiser

**Sunday, January 20, following worship**

The Senior High Youth will provide lunch prior to the January All-Church Council Meeting. This will be a fundraising effort to help with expenses for Christian Citizenship Seminar this March and National Youth Conference next summer. Please plan to stay after worship, enjoy a lunch you neither need to cook nor clean up after, and support our terrific teens!

## Hospitality Greeters

**January 27, 8:00 a.m.**

### **Hillcrest Private Dining Room**

The friendly, welcoming Hospitality Greeters who meet people at the entrance to our church campus each Sunday morning will meet for breakfast and scheduling on Sunday, January 27, at 8:00 a.m. in the Hillcrest Private Dining Room. Please come with your calendars and appetites to begin another year of happy greetings!

## All-Church Council Meeting

**January 20, after worship**

The All-Church Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20 after worship. As members it will be important for you to participate in the vote on the proposed budget for 2013. Pertinent to this vote will be a discussion on the recommendation brought by Church Board at the October Council Meeting to remove contributions to the Missions and Ministry Board of the denomination from our unified budget (see related article on page 11); this recommendation still provides an opportunity for contributions to the denomination with four designated offerings taken during the year. Please come and let your voice be heard!

## Family Fun, Games and Picnic

**RETURNS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013**

**11:30 to 1:30!!!**

All families with children are invited!

We will have craft tables, a drink & dessert station, game tables,

and lots of room for free play!

You bring a picnic lunch and all your friends!!

Dawna Welch

(909) 625-1648

[Dawna@lavernecob.org](mailto:Dawna@lavernecob.org)

## ADVENT ADVENTURE

Fifty-three of you helped make the Advent Adventure a time of celebration and preparation for the coming of Christmas! In addition to making ornaments, decorating cookies, and sharing a meal, we also managed to build the fullest, most luscious looking evergreen boughs we've seen in years! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### November Giving and Attendance Report

#### Giving Report

YTD Giving 2012	\$559,723
YTD Giving 2011	\$535,865
YTD Expenses 2012	\$559,859

#### Average Worship Attendance

November 2012	265
November 2011	237

### Lenten Interest Group

#### LEADERS WANTED!

**Registration deadline is January 20**

The first Sunday of Lent is February 17, and that marks the beginning of the Lenten Interest Groups! Groups meet weekly during the six weeks prior to Easter (March 31) for fellowship, fun, study, and relationship building around their common interests.

In the past, Lenten Interest Groups have formed around themes of environmental and/or social justice concerns, a passion for bird watching, a love of crafting, knitting, writing, cooking, a desire for theological study. Many groups have continued year round!

***Do you have a special hobby you would like to share with others?***

***Is there an area of interest you would like to explore with others?***

Do not hesitate to call Dawna Welch for more information or discussion at (909) 593-1364 or [Dawna@lavernecob.org](mailto:Dawna@lavernecob.org).

**January 20  
is the deadline**

**for registering a group.**

**Sign ups for groups will begin  
the following Sunday,**

**January 27 through Friday, February 15.**

## Save the Date: All Church Luncheon **February 10**



In the month when we celebrate our love for one another, our All Church Luncheon will be a celebration of our love of **Faith, Friends, and Family**. Please join us as we gather for a shared meal,

conversation, and support of Father Gregory's ministry at Homeboy Industries. There is always room in the kitchen for those who want to be involved.

## Spiritual Cinema Circle

**January 29, 6:30 p.m.**

### **Fireside Room**

Come to the January Spiritual Cinema Circle for a downright pleasant evening. (How's that for understated advertising for a change?) On Tuesday, January 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Fireside Room, we'll be screening two shorts and a long short: The long short is the documentary "They Came to Play," which chronicles the Fifth International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. And don't let "amateurs" mislead you; these are world-class musicians. The short shorts include "The One Note Man," a glimpse into the life of a lonely orchestral cymbals player who tries to get the attention of a girl in the audience. And then we'll end the evening with the inspiring, six-minute short, "Gratitude." See you there.

## Responding to Questions About Denominational Giving

At the October Church Council meeting there were facilitated round table discussions related to the Church Board's proposal to support the denominational Missions and Ministry (M&M) Board with quarterly offerings. During the discussions, questions were raised about our pledge process, fundraising, and our church's on-going relationship with the denomination's M&M Board.

The Stewardship and Finance Commission has recommended that the church adopt the current practice for designated giving as it relates to the M&M Board. There will not be a separate pledge process for giving to the denomination; instead, members desiring to contribute to Mission and Ministry will be encouraged to write checks to LVCOB and mark the check as designated for the M&M Board. Records for tax purposes will be prepared as usual.

To facilitate fundraising for the M&M Board, the Stewardship & Finance Commission will schedule quarterly offering opportunities, envelopes, and denominational educational materials and presentations. Donations to the M&M Board serve the denominational budget for a wide variety of programs, including world missions, church planting, Brethren Volunteer Service, staff compensation, facility upkeep, conferences, and curriculum materials.

The La Verne Church will continue to be involved with the denomination and the M&M Board. There will be no monetary restrictions on designated funds collected for M&M Board. All monies will be sent to the denomination quarterly. Historical giving to the M&M Board has represented about 3% of the annual budget.

The final decision of whether to retain giving to the denomination in the unified budget or have quarterly offerings will be made during the January Church Council meeting.

## Lives of Music, Lives of Service - Gerry and Bernice Pence



After more than 55 years of dedicated service in the LVCOB music program, Gerry and Bernice Pence have officially retired from the Chancel Choir. During those 55-plus years of support and volunteering, Gerry, a baritone singer, also served as choral director for 15 years, twice as interim director; Bernice, an alto singer, was also a regular piano accompanist and occasional church organist. Through the years they have actively encouraged and invited persons to be involved in our music program and have fostered high standards of musicianship, upheld music as worship, and encouraged a sense of community among music participants. With gentle grace and great willingness to share their love of music and the church, Gerry and Bernie have humbly inspired and motivated a multitude of singers and instrumentalists.

In addition to their choir work, they have served in many other ways in and outside the church setting. Gerry and Bernie met at La Verne College, married, then went to Europe as Brethren

Volunteer Service workers (BVS). Their service was in Frankfurt, Germany, assisting in the post-war rebuilding effort there. After this they moved to Laton, CA, where Gerry and Bernie taught, and where they began their family. They then moved back to La Verne and continued their teaching careers in the Bonita School District, Bernice as Kindergarten teacher at Roynon School and Gerry as English teacher and choral director at Bonita High School. Following retirement from teaching, Bernice was active in the Ladies Aid making quilts and knitting baby items, helped with Women's Fellowship activities, accompanied the K-1 choir, made floral arrangements for worship, and welcomed and encouraged new people to participate in the life of the church. Gerry, too, was active in the Worship and Witness commission, was part of the planning team for the Friendship Class, was one of the founders of the "Celebration of the Arts Festival", and often led music for district and denominational gatherings and conferences. They served various terms as Deacons, hosted music appreciation get-togethers, embraced newcomers, and planned special music worship services. Along with their church activities and full-time teaching responsibilities, Gerry and Bernice raised four fine children: Chris, Dena Jeff, and Kim.

We are so grateful for Bernie's and Gerry's enormous contributions to the life, ministry, and worship of this church, as well as to the life of the city of La Verne, where they have influenced countless students and their families. We express our profound appreciation to them both, for their dedicated and generous service to our faith community. Bernice and Gerry will continue to support our church by enjoying the worship services and by encouraging and appreciating the gifts and talents of others in this congregation. Again, they will do this with their trademark kindness and generosity of spirit.

Thank you, Gerry and Bernie. You have been and are a blessing to this church and its people.

Fireside Class - Topics for January

January 6 - Church members, Pam Gardner and Charlotte Moore, will present and discuss the topic, "Family Building - Blending and Extending and Generational Family Growth".

January 13 - The group will join the Youth and Fellowship class in the Social Hall to listen to David Ratcliff on the topic of water and our dry world.

January 20 - Church members, Lori Dick and Teri Tomkins, will present and discuss the topic, "Family Building with Junior High and High School Kids Headed For and Choosing a College".

January 27 - Church member, Joe Lyons, will discuss the "pulls and pushes" on a City Councilperson as the acquisition of the city water company occurs.

Friendship Class Studies Water and the Warming Planet

The Friendship Class will drink in the issue of water in January, specifically the problems of the Colorado River, the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, ground water in California, and water in the world's trouble spots. The high point of the study will be David Radcliff's talk on January 13, "Quadruple A: Water Issues in the Amazon, Arctic, Asia, and Africa."

**Children's Sunday School**

**Returns - January 6, 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

Pre-K and Kindergarten people will continue to meet with Sara Davis who will explore favorite Bible themes through music, stories, and art work. This class meets in the upstairs classroom next to the sanctuary.

First – Fifth grade people meet upstairs above the library with Chuck and Jen Duffie, who bring a fun, creative, and hands-on approach to children's spirituality!

Library News

Start the New Year right! Visit our wonderful Church Library to check out meaningful, enjoyable reading material that will inform and inspire you. There are Spiritual Cinema DVDs, which are thought-provoking and entertaining on a cold winter evening, as well as notable journals that present timely articles relating to faith, our denomination, and social issues. The Bible reference shelf contains many helpful volumes; there are novels from the Book Study group, Brethren authors, books on peace and justice; the list goes on and on. Bring your children to the library so they may also choose from a variety of good books on a variety of relevant issues for children. Come to visit, come to peruse, come to check it out! There is much to take pleasure in at our Church Library.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE!**

**A SUNDAY MORNING  
"TOPIC AND DISCUSSION" GROUP  
FOR PARENTS  
Meeting at 9:15  
in the room across from the library**

**We will kick off the new year on January 6, 2013 and get together to plan and discuss what we want to plan and discuss!  
Dawna Welch will facilitate.  
Bring your ideas, questions and/or suggestions and let's see where we go!  
Dawna Welch 909-593-1364  
[Dawna@laverncob.org](mailto:Dawna@laverncob.org)**



## January Youth Calendar

- January 13 Lunch with David Radcliff,  
12 noon, Social Hall
- January 20 Sr. High Lunch Fundraiser,  
9am to 2 pm
- January 26 Coffee House/Talent Show  
Set up and Sound Checks,  
Time TBA  
Event, 6:30-9 pm

### **Hold the Date:**

- February 2 Camp La Verne Banquet  
February 16-18 Youth Winter Camp

## Senior High Youth Fundraiser

**Sunday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The lunch before the January Church Council Meeting will be a fundraiser for the Senior High Youth, for CCS 2013 and NYC 2014. Volunteers should arrive in the kitchen at 9 am to start preparation and plan to stay through clean-up, approximately 2 pm. Only those youth who help with this fundraiser in some way will benefit from the proceeds. If you cannot be there that day, please call Janet Ober at (909) 593-1364 or send an email to her at [Janet@LaVerneCOB.org](mailto:Janet@LaVerneCOB.org) to find out how you can help beforehand.



**Welcomers at the Fall Youth Fundraiser**



## Dining with David

**Sunday, January 13, 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

After worship, all youth are invited to have lunch with David Radcliff, founder and director of New Community Project (NCP), which advocates for social and environmental justice around the world. David is a popular speaker at youth conferences around the country and will be a "captive audience" for the LVCOB youth that afternoon. (David will also be speaking during Sunday School and Worship that day; but during lunch, the youth will have him all to themselves!) Before founding NCP, David was the Director of Brethren Peace Witness for the Church of the Brethren. So, if you want to talk with David about peace, justice, ecology, or how faith relates to all of it, here's your chance! To learn more about NCP:

<http://www.newcommunityproject.org/>



## CCS-Bound

**Eydie Martinez, Kyra Terry and Lauren Ober Miller** will represent the La Verne Church of the Brethren at Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) this March. Their chaperones will be **Kay Hoover** and **Janet Ober**. CCS is a conference for young people (freshmen in high school through freshmen year of college) during which the youth explore the connections between faith and practice from a national and global perspective. Participants meet with congressional and church leaders, learn from experts, tour the United Nations, worship in urban churches, and do some site-seeing as well. The 2013 theme is *Childhood Poverty: Nutrition, Housing and Education*. CCS is set March 23-28, 2013 in New York City and Washington DC.



## Coffee House and Talent Show **Saturday, January 26**

Every few years, the Senior High Youth put on a Coffee House/Talent Show for the congregation and the community. We transform the Fellowship Hall with posters, sofas, and tiny lights; we serve hot chocolate and cold Frappuccinos, as well as home-baked treats; and we put on a show of music, comedy, dance, and more!

Start talking to your friends and family members about signing up to perform. Invite everyone you know to come and relax with a great cup of "joe" and an even better show! We'll plan to set up the hall that Saturday morning, do sound checks in the afternoon, open the doors at 6:30, and start the show at 7.



Middle School Youth: Put this on your calendar. Sign up to perform or just come with your family and friends. Middle Schoolers are always THE MOST enthusiastic audience members!!

## Fellowship Visitors

**January 16, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Church Library**

Fellowship Visitors meet on the third Wednesday of each month to spend the morning visiting with those in our church community who are unable to be in worship on Sunday mornings. If you would like to be part of this visiting ministry, please call Julie Kurtz at (909) 593-2793, to find out more. The only requirements are a kind smile, listening ears, and time one morning a month. We will meet January 16 at 9:00 a.m. in the Library to form teams of two and hand out visiting assignments. The rewards are great, and the blessings are mutual!

## Thanksgiving Offering Results

\$2,992 was raised at Thanksgiving for the victims of Superstorm Sandy. A check was sent in early December to the Church of the Brethren Emergency Disaster Fund which supports the work of Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children's Disaster Services. To follow the clean-up and relief efforts funded by the EDF, check out [www.brethren.org/bdm](http://www.brethren.org/bdm). Thank you for your generosity.



## Message for ULV Alumni

The University of La Verne is partnering with Citizen Alum, a national initiative that promotes the image of alumni as "doers" in their community. Alums are allies in education—crucial partners in building multigenerational communities of active citizenship and active learning. As a ULV alum, we know you're engaged in your community – you're a Leopard! Whether it's PTA, coaching, serving as an elected official, mentoring children, church leadership, volunteering, or creating your own non-profit, we call it civic engagement, and it's an important value of the University's mission. However great or small, don't be humble about your civic engagement – we want to hear how you're involved in your community! Visit <http://laverne.edu/citizen-alum/listening-project/> and tell us your story!

## Enneagram Workshop

**February 16, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

### **Tustin, CA**

The Enneagram of Healthy Conversations workshop will be offered by Reba Herder through the International Enneagram Association of Southern California beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 16 at Common Ground in Tustin. Contact Reba at (951) 204-3574 for more information

## Food for Thought

This month the Service Commission invites you to help build the "staples" that line the shelves of the Beta Center Food Pantry. Beta Center has constant need of canned fruits, vegetables, and meats, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, dried beans, and cereal. Won't you pick up one, two, or more of these while shopping this month and drop them off in the narthex or in one of the "canned food caddies" located at the entrances to the church? Monetary donations may also be made directly to the Beta Center online at [www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org) or by mailing to Inland Valley Hope Partners Administrative Office, 1753 N. Park Ave., Pomona, CA 91768. Every gift is needed. Every gift touches a life.



## Workshop on Cultural Competence

**January 31, 8:30-12:00 p.m.**

### **Hillcrest Meetinghouse**

A workshop led by Dr. Joy Lei, Chief Diversity and Inclusivity Officer at ULV on diversity and inclusion is being offered at Hillcrest on January 31, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse. If this subject is of interest to you, you are welcome to attend. There is no charge for the event. Please Call Carmen Seaton at Reception or Chaplain Tom at (909) 392-4354 to RSVP.

## Pianist needed at Hillcrest

Chaplain Tom is seeking someone to play for chapel services once a month on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. If you are interested, please let him know.



## 2013-2014 New Community Project Learning Tours

Each year the New Community Project plans Learning Tours across the globe. These are not mission trips or workcamps, but spirited and spiritually uplifting visits to other parts of the world. Neither are these just for youth or just for adults, but rather they're intergenerational experiences intended to challenge, change and renew participants, while building relationships with our neighbors and a better appreciation for our amazing planet.

Read below for a listing of the upcoming Learning Tours. For detailed information and registration, visit <http://www.newcommunityproject.org/learningtours.shtml>, call NCP director David Radcliff at (888) 800-2985, or talk with David when he visits us in mid-January.

### **Burma: January 19-30, 2013**

Leaders: David Radcliff, Nyan Min Din, Moe Swe

Cost: \$1100 (\$975—student) plus roundtrip airfare to Yangon

Join a delegation to the fascinating and troubled country of Burma (Myanmar). Learn about Asian culture, Buddhist religion, and the economic, political, and social realities of one of the poorest nations in the region.

### **Ecuadorian Amazon: June 12-21, 2013**

Co-leaders: David Radcliff and Mariana Almieda, Siona shaman Delio

Cost: \$1150 per person (\$1075 - student) plus roundtrip airfare

Explore the incredible beauty and biodiversity of the Ecuadorian Amazon! This trip is hosted by Selva Foundation: Life Without Frontiers, an organization committed to indigenous rights, sustainable development, and preservation of the rainforest.

### **Honduras July 12-21, 2013 (tentative)**

Leaders: David Radcliff, Marisela Araujo

Cost: \$675 (\$600—student) plus airfare to and from the Honduras

Learn about poverty and its causes in one of the poorest countries in Central America, while experiencing the hospitality, faith and determination of the people.

### **Denali / Kenai Fjords: August 4-13, 2013**

Leaders: David Radcliff, Daniel Radcliff

Cost - from Anchorage: \$850 (\$750 - student)

Denali National Park is one of the natural wonders of the world. Human impact is kept to a minimum in this vast wilderness area, with animals ranging freely and often in plain view. The Learning Tour begins with a foray down the southeastern coast to Seward for exploration of glaciers and sea life, including a boat trip into the Kenai Fjords National Park complete with whales, orcas, sea lions and plenty-'a puffins.

### **Nepal: January 8-21, 2014**

Leaders: Roshni Rai, David Radcliff

Cost: \$1150 (\$1050--student) plus airfare to and from Nepal

Experience the majesty of the Himalaya Mountains, the richness of south Asian Hindu culture, the poignancy of the poorest country in the region.

### **South Sudan: February 9-23, 2014**

Leaders: Gladys Mannanyu, Agness Amelito, David Radcliff

Cost: \$1400 (\$1300—student) plus airfare to and from Uganda

Learn about politics and culture in the world's newest nation, South Sudan. Our group will experience the poverty, resilience, faith and incredible hospitality of people who have had more than their share of hardship during decades of war and displacement.

### **Learning Tour goals:**

- gain understanding of the challenges facing our neighbors and our planet
- grow personally and spiritually
- show support for our global neighbors
- build community with other participants and with those we visit
- return home better equipped to be a voice for justice and peace in our world

## Agenda for a Prophetic Faith

Agenda for a Prophetic Faith is a speaker series sponsored by Progressive Christians Uniting and five host churches, our congregation being one of them. The tickets are \$40 for the whole series and \$10 for a single lecture. Our church will be selling tickets as we get closer to the series event.

### Lecture 1

**Dr. James Hansen, NASA**, Author of *Storms of My Grandchildren*

### **Global Warming is Here, and It is Worse Than We Thought**

Sunday, February 24, 2013, 7 p.m.  
Claremont United Methodist Church  
211 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont

### Lecture 2

**Bishop Minerva Carcano**

### **The Dream Act and a Just Immigration Policy**

Sunday, March 3, 2013, 7 p.m.  
Claremont Presbyterian Church  
1111 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont

### Lecture 3

**The Reverend Romal Tune**

### **The Problem of Mass Incarceration**

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 7 p.m.  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona

### Lecture 4

**Dr. Norman Ornstein**, Author of *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*

### **It's Even Worse Than It Looks, But There is a Way Out**

Sunday, March 17, 2013, 7 p.m.  
Claremont United Church of Christ  
233 W. Harrison Ave., Claremont

### Lecture 5

**James Carroll**, Author of *Constantine's Sword* and *House of War*

### **Toward a Civil Society**

Sunday, April 7, 2013, 7 p.m.  
La Verne Church of the Brethren  
2425 E Street, La Verne, CA

## Progressive Brethren Council

The Progressive Brethren Council is a 6-member committee that provides oversight for the Progressive Brethren Gathering and encourages the coordination of the work of three organizations: Open Table Cooperative, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, and Womaen's Caucus. Three members of our church serve on the Progressive Brethren Council: **Mary Kay Ogden** (Womaen's Caucus), **Josiah Hostetler** (Open Table Cooperative) and **Susan Boyer** (Brethren Mennonite Council). Since three of the six members of the committee live in the same area, the council chooses to meet here in La Verne. We are hosting their next committee meeting on February 13 & 14.

## Meet Me on the Mountain

**January 20, 3:00 p.m.**

### **Hillcrest Meetinghouse**

General Admission-\$20, Preferred Seating-\$25  
The Cultural Arts Society of La Verne presents the premiere of Shawn Kirchner's "Meet Me on the Mountain" Blue-grass songs inspired by the movie, *Brokeback Mountain*. Tickets available at: <http://www.livingathillcrest.org/newseventscas.html>.

## Conscientious Projector:

### *Climate Refugees*

**January 16, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Claremont Forum**

**566 W. First St., Claremont**

There is a new phenomenon in the global arena called "Climate Refugees". A climate refugee is a person displaced by climatically induced environmental disasters. Such disasters result from incremental and rapid ecological change, resulting in increased droughts, desertification, sea level rise, and the more frequent occurrence of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, cyclones, fires, mass flooding, and tornadoes. All this is causing mass global migration and border conflicts. For the first time, the Pentagon now considers climate change a national security risk.





# Introduction to the Old Testament



## What is the Old Testament?

A 6-week series

Tuesdays

January 8 - February 12

Galen Walker Board Room

3:00—5:00 p.m.

This course is an **introduction** to the canon of the Old Testament, the **order** and **arrangement** of the OT books, the **relationship** of the OT to the NT, the role of **archaeology**, critical biblical **scholarship** in interpretation, the **Pentateuch**, the **Historical Books**, the **Prophets**, and **Poetic and Wisdom Literature**, a topic of special interest to the group.



**Taught by Dr. Bob Mullins,**  
Professor of Religion at APU

*Call Ryan Harrison (909 593-4917, ext 4392 to RSVP)*

**Hillcrest**

*Spiritual Life*

2705 Mountain View Drive ~ La Verne, CA 91750

(909) 593-4917

