



The Spirit

July 2016

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

New Beginnings Update.

Of all the congregations in Presbytery, our team consulted the most congregational members, had the most small groups, the most meetings and our leadership team studied, discussed and considered many approaches and sources well beyond the materials supplied and the scope of the initial assessor's report. In short everyone involved worked very hard, imaginatively and faithfully and the Report has been submitted to Session, received with thanks and accepted "in principle".

Why "in principle" and when will it be published to the congregation? Well the work is not done yet. Session elders, particularly those who were not in the leadership team are considering it, making sure they understand it and we are all asking lots of questions like " exactly what do we mean by?" or "who , or which team, will be responsible for doing....?". We also have to discuss the Report in detail with the Deacons .To this purpose the NB team has been disbanded and the existing Session Vision team, ably led by Pam Palmer are tasked with the next step.

We are taking this step because this Report is not going to be put on a shelf and stored. This is a working document which we will be putting to work! That requires planning, resources and effort, which is what Session is working on right now.

While no firm plans have been made yet, it is my personal opinion that some more consultation with the congregation might be necessary and, I know, we certainly will be distributing the Report conclusions and recommendations, but with vacations, preparing that will take some more time.

Without giving too many details I can say that our Community Awareness Team is being re-named Communications and that internal communication will now be added to their task. We also accept that we need more congregational involvement in carrying out our mission. Almost every team we have is presently in need of new members and ways to recruit and even the possibility of having a member act as "volunteer recruiter" are being considered.

Let me conclude with an enormous vote of thanks to every single one of you, and especially to our NB leadership members who have astonished me with their dedication.

A couple of quotes from the Introduction to the Report need to be shared with all:

"We need to focus on what God is calling us to do.....attracting new families or getting more participation from youth or members in general will be a natural outcome."

"Our church has a lot to offer now and we will continue to do more in the future. We want to make sure that there is awareness internally as well as awareness in our larger community"

I originally described the New Beginnings process as a "re-setting of our compass" to make sure we are traveling to God's chosen destination.

Well the compass has been set, we are drawing up the maps and we are off on our New Beginning.

~ Pastor John

Hello Dolly! Tickets on Sale Now!

Tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis, filling front tables first and then moving back. We don't actually send tickets as we simply hold your reservation at the door.

Tickets may be purchased three ways (in order of preference):

1. Online

Go to the website, www.rclpctheater.com, and follow links for ticket purchasing. An email confirmation will be sent to you as your receipt for the tickets.

2. Check

Please make checks payable to **RCLPC Theater**; include the number of tickets requested and performance date on the memo line. Please put them in an envelope marked, "Hello Dolly!"

3. Cash

Please put the exact amount in an envelope marked, "Hello Dolly!" with your name, contact information, number of tickets needed and performance date on the envelope.

For cash or check: You can drop off your envelope at the RCLPC office. We will then email you a receipt for the tickets.

Performances:

Fridays: July 15, 22, 29 & Saturdays: July 16, 23, 30

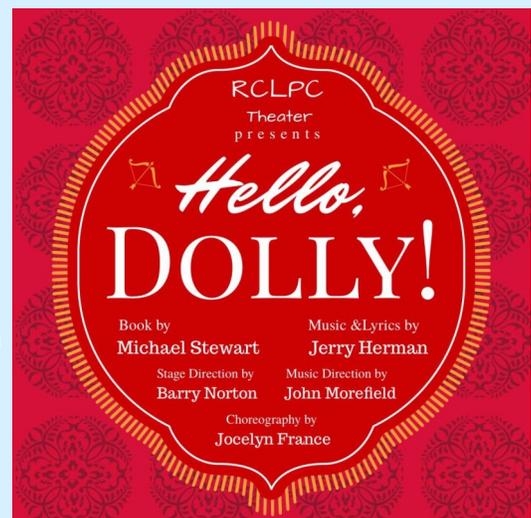
Dinner at 7pm; Show at 8pm

Adults	\$40.00
Seniors/Students	\$35.00
Children (under 6)	\$25.00
Book an entire table for 8:	\$270.00

Sundays: July 17, 24, 31

Show at 2pm (no dinner; dessert at intermission)

Adults	\$30.00
Seniors/Students	\$25.00



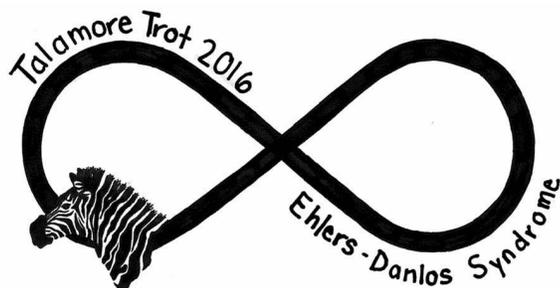
Talamore Trot

Many of us here at RCLPC have seen a new face over the last couple of months - Olivia Harrison has been at worship and Book Club.

Ehler's-Danlos Syndrome is a cause close to Olivia's heart, as her family has been deeply affected by the disease. The Talamore Trot is a 5K fundraising event to benefit Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

This fun event will take place on September 10, at Tomaso Park in Huntley, IL. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/TalamoreTrot5K/>



A Note ...

Ron Haznedl is now at Autumn Leaves memory care facility in Crystal Lake. He would very much enjoy visits and cards or notes from any of you. Familiar faces would be especially appreciated.

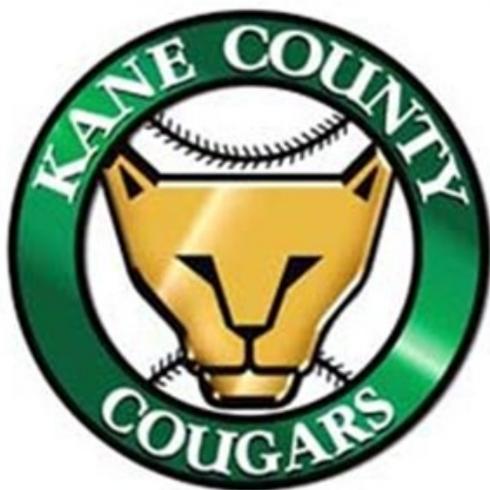
Be sure to sign the guest book in the entryway. He can receive calls though the main number, but they would have to find him to take him a phone.

The address is:

Autumn Leaves
495 Alexandra Blvd.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PADS Lunches

Please consider helping to prepare lunches for PADS. Every Friday, at 9:00 a.m., we make 30 sandwiches and then load them into the car to be delivered. It only takes about 40 minutes; helpers are always needed and much appreciated! Sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.



Take us out to the Ballpark! Join us for some family fun at a Cougar's game!

At Fifth Third Bank Ballpark in Geneva, Illinois
Saturday, August 13, 2016
Gates Open at 3:30 PM • Game time at 6:30 PM

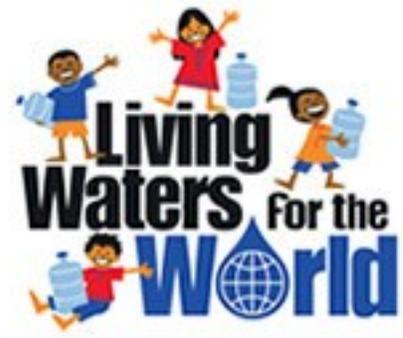
*The Men's group invites you to join your friends
for some fun and baseball at Minion Night!*

- Come early to enjoy a pre-game concert by American English starting at 4:45 in the Concert Garden
- Kids can enjoy the newly renovated Kid Zone
- Tickets are \$22 each and include a \$10 Ozzie Dollars coupon to spend at the ballpark on food or drinks
- Enjoy the ballgame from the comfort of a Box Seat
- Stick around post-game to see the Jesse White Tumblers, a fabulous Fireworks Show, and even run the bases!

Tickets are limited, contact Mike Harvey, mikeharvey1234@gmail.com, to reserve your seats.

Living Waters for the World Update

After months of learning, planning, fundraising, celebrating, praying, and assembling system parts and craft supplies, the implementation trip is underway. From July 7-15 the Living Waters team -- Cindy and Dave Theobald, Ed Waters, Ann Legg, Mary Finch, Sarah and Jac Kelewae, and Lois and Rick Johnson -- will be in Guatemala to work with the people of Belén Presbyterian Church to install a pure water system and train the operators, plus teach the children about the importance of hand washing and uses of clean water.



Check the RCLPC Living Waters Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/rclpclww/?ref=ts&fref=ts> for daily prayer requests and photos. If you “like” the page, you will receive the posts. The RCLPC blog at <https://rclpc.wordpress.com/category/rclpc-in-mission/> will have daily updates on the health and hygiene education and installation work in Jerez.

Please pray for us each day of the trip. In general, we seek prayers for safe travel, for a site that is ready for the installation, for a strong partnership with Belén that will lead to clean water for the children of the community, for good health to carry us through.

Mere words don't seem adequate to thank you for your enthusiastic and generous support of the Living Waters mission. We have felt your care and prayers all along the way. Most recently supplies for the children's use have filled the box in Fellowship Hall and been carefully packed for transport to Guatemala. Thank you so much.

Our schedule looks like this:

July 7	Travel day--6:00 am flight
July 8	Antigua--orientation to Guatemala
July 9	Travel to Reu
July 10	Worship at Belén; initial meetings
July 11-13	Installation, education, and record keeping work
July 14	Pure water celebration; visit to Mayan ruins and travel back to Antigua
July 15	Travel day--2:00pm flight



The water building under construction



The Living Waters team

shop to GIVE

Help raise money for our PADS lunches by ordering Scrip gift cards. Order Scrip cards from the stores you shop every day for groceries, gas, clothes and more. It is so easy. Pick up an order form on the bulletin board in the Connecting Link, fill it out and leave the form with a check to RCLPC and "Scrip" on the memo line in the Scrip mail box at the front door. You will receive your cards in about a week or two, we will contact you when they arrive. The next deadline date for ordering is Sunday, July 24th.

Don't
Forget...
Next
SPIRIT
deadline is
July 29th!



Lions and Curses and Prayers, Oh My

Jennifer Garrison Brownell

At the command of the Lord a certain member of a company of prophets said to another, "Strike me!" But the man refused to strike him. Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord, as soon as you have left me, a lion will kill you." And when he had left him, a lion met him and killed him. - 1 Kings 20:35-36

Hopefully, no one has asked your pastor for a punch upside the head lately. Yet, chances are that "the command of the Lord" comes to your pastor in some unexpected ways. It's not outside the realm of possibility that your pastor has been asked to facilitate a finance meeting, pray with someone who is dying, bless something that is being born, break bread, contact the insurance company, teach one class about first century Palestine and another about twenty-first century sexual ethics, argue with the copier repairman, sit on a chair by a hospital bed, sit on the floor with a toddler, proofread the newsletter, research employment law, exorcise a demon, organize a rally, shovel a walk, and prepare to present an exactly fourteen minute sermon that is scholarly, faithful, engaging, relevant, biblical, hopeful, prophetic, pastoral and funny. And that's just this week.

If your pastor balks at any one of these requests, it may be tempting to curse them, to send them headlong into the jaws and claws of, if not literal lions, then at least of disapproval or censure. Next time you face that temptation, remember this. Your pastor must discern which of the myriad requests they field each day are truly the command of the Lord and which are the clamoring of other voices. Remember this. Just as you cannot always discern what is truly the command of the Lord and which is just a slap in the face, neither can your pastor. Remember this. Just like you, your pastor is listening, trying to understand, trying to obey.

Prayer

Lord, your commands come to us in some pretty weird ways sometimes. Helps us to discern when that is really You, still speaking. Amen. Amen.

Session Highlights

June 27, 2016

Rev. John Dillon Moderator

Welcomed new Elders to meeting – Laura Beamer, Raechel Sowa, Bob Grecco

Approved Session Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2016

Approved offering office space for Zachary Schmidt (Regional Coordinator - Bread for the World).

Reviewed and discussed 2016 May financial report

Discussed New Beginnings Team Report.

Approved accepting the New Beginnings Report in Principal and deferred to Vision Team for expanded discussion and implementation recommendations

Approved to dissolved the New Beginnings Leadership Team and transfer responsibility to Vision Team

Approved Session Team responsibility and name change:

Administration – include Volunteer leader responsibility

Community Awareness – name changed to Communications with responsibility changes

Approved RCLPC Corporation 2016-2017 officers:

President – Deb Steele

Vice President – Laura Beamer

Treasurer – David Woodruff

Secretary/Clerk – Lee Ekstrom

Financial Secretary – Laurie Jensen

Approved Presbytery Voting Elder – Steve Conell

Approved Columbarium Elders – Lou Rabe, Lori Thompson

Approved 2016-2017 Team Session Liaison assignments:

<u>Worship</u> Tom Lafontaine Deb Steele	<u>Building & Grounds</u> Lou Rabe Bob Grecco	<u>Finance</u> Steve Connell
<u>Administration</u> Janet Kvam-Holub	<u>Stewardship</u> Laura Beamer	<u>Christian Education</u> Al Popp Raechel Sowa Nate Zacher
<u>Vision</u> Pam Palmer	<u>Mission</u> Cindy Theobald	<u>Communications</u> Bruce Randall

Approved cancelling the July 25, 2016 meeting

Next meeting August 22, 2016