



## Christ Holds It All Together

<sup>15-18</sup> We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

<sup>18-20</sup> He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross. (Colossians 1:15-20. The Message)

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"Jesus is Lord. it is He by whom all things exist. It was He who spiraled the DNA Helix, who choreographed the genetic quadrille in cell divisions, who scored the hormonal symphony and who heals the wounds which we bind up...and by looking to this Lord, the Doctor of Galilee, this Sustainer of every galaxy, we can day by day calibrate our behavior". R.F.R.Gardner, M.D.  
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Sometimes we Christians live in the past. We look back with longing to the "glory days", either the Gospel times when Jesus walked the earth or to the more personal "good old days" which our selective memories construct. Yet Jesus is not simply a piece of long ago history nor a spent force of a bygone age. Sometimes we Christians live in the future. We yearn for the coming of the Kingdom, the Day of the Lord, the promise of life everlasting, rewards for the faithful and punishment for the wrong doers. Yet Jesus is not simply a "promise for tomorrow", an eventual fixer of all ills.

Dr.Gardner's words above are not in the usual language of devotion or prayer. They are words from his everyday vocabulary, subjects with which he deals. For him Jesus is very much Lord of TODAY. A life power: making up every atom of everything; present in his daily world; the energy; the sense; the understanding. You can feel his awe at being conscious of Jesus. A feeling which is also expressed in the letter to the Colossians.

Jesus IS Lord of the Past and the Future but sometimes we Christians forget Jesus IS Lord of NOW. Faith to be real must be seen and applied and understood in the here and now. That is where we live and it is no good thinking of the past or future Jesus if we are not experiencing Jesus in the opportunities and frustrations of our world.

Jesus is not a memory or a promised visitor, Jesus IS for "*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him" Col 1:17.

It is for that reason that I am so excited about a new Christian Education opportunity which we will start on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, the "Third Sunday". This will be a group made up of Senior High, Confirmands, and Adults who will, on the "Third Sunday" of every month meet at 10:00 am, to consider the Jesus of NOW. By exploring concepts like Grace, Redemption, Forgiveness, Repentance and how we can recognize and use their God given power in our lives TODAY.

Please come and join us. Younger members – your opinion matters. Adults-share your experience. Let us together see that Jesus is relevant and powerful in this world in which we live. ~Pastor John

## MEET YOUR DEACON . . . . SHARON RAY

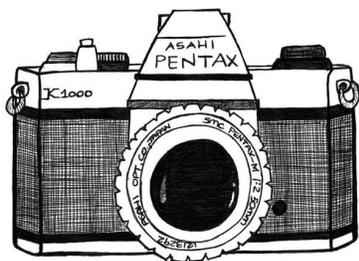
Time to meet Sharon Ray, who has just joined our Deacon team. She lives in Woodstock and was raised in Dayton, Ohio. Sharon joined RCLPC in 2008 and shortly after that event, Rev. Floyd announced he was leaving RCLPC. Since her previous church just had their minister depart, Sharon was concerned she was bad luck for churches. She has been very good luck for our church!

While growing up, she spent every summer day swimming at the city pools. Today Sharon loves a tasty meal of scallops, mashed potatoes, and roasted veggies. In her spare time, she likes to read and really enjoys being in the RCLPC book club. Sharon also volunteers for a non-profit as a Court Appointed Special Advocate where she works with foster kids involved in the Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Court. Last, but not least, she loves hanging out with her three grown sons, daughters-in-law, and two teenaged grandsons.

In mid-life, she made a big decision that changed her life course. Her son and his wife told Sharon that she was going to be a grandma, then they announced that they were moving to Phoenix for her son's new job. Knowing how disappointed she would be to become a long-distance grandma, they invited Sharon to move to Phoenix with them. Sharon surprised them by accepting their offer, and flew to Phoenix to arrive one week before her first grandson was born. She had no job and no place to live, but those were minor obstacles that were quickly overcome and she has enjoyed sharing her life with her grandsons.

### Sharon's Family Group

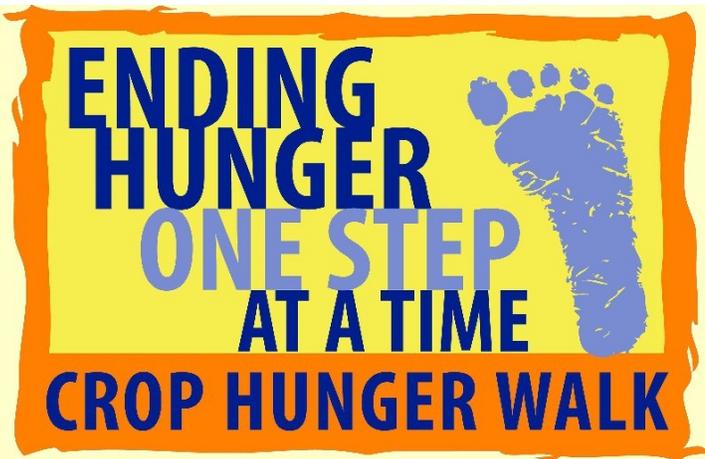
Rob and Julia Baser  
Darryl and Adriana Bessant  
Cheryl Brincks  
Charles and Donna Doll  
John and Dorothy Fankhauser  
Brian and Rebecca Floyd  
Tom and Julie Genova  
Mike and Cindy Harvey  
Charlotte Irvine  
Bill and Pat Moll  
Mark and Raechel Sowa  
Ed Waters



### *You ought to be in pictures!*

The Deacons are working hard to update our church directory, and we need your help! On Sunday, September 11, and Sunday, September 18, Kevin Ray will be at church to take informal pictures of you and your family. Please find Kevin and his camera and give us your best smile! Kathy Rabe will also be seeking out willing volunteers on both of those mornings. If that doesn't work for you, please send a recent photo to your Deacon

or the church office. This updated directory is a great way to help all of us with knowing each better, not to mention a great aid for our memory!



*RCLPC IS THE CROP Walk  
HOST IN 2016 AND ALSO  
2017!*

We have walked and contributed for 20 years, but never stepped up to be hosts. This is a Mission for the entire Congregation. Last year we raised a generous \$3,000, with \$4,000 being our goal for 2016.

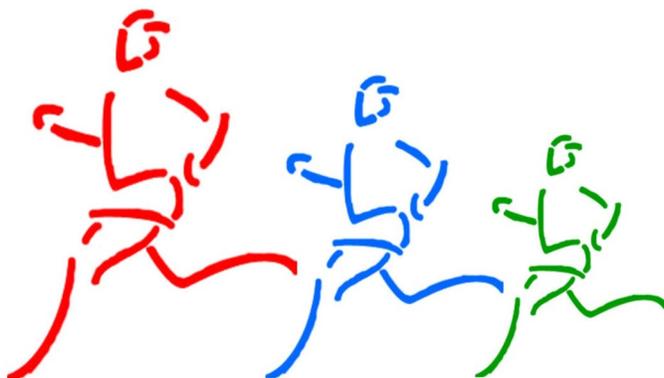
All of us are needed to make this a success.

There are some immediate needs for the day of the CROP walk on October 16th :

- An assistant for Steve Newton, who will be marking the 1 mile and 4 mile walk.
- Tables to be set up.
- Water bottles need to be provided for 200 walkers.
- Volunteer to hand out CROP Walk vests, advise walkers, hand out routes.
- Volunteers needed to assist with the Easy Eats.. Volunteers will be assembling 300 bags. Each bag will contain ingredients for a meal for a family of four.
- As always, a clean-up committee will be needed. We are the hosts, but FCC is graciously allowing us to use their church building and grounds. They will not be providing volunteers to assist us.

While the walkers are gone, the registration tables may be removed...but treat tables or table can be set up: This requires a team of (perhaps) non-walkers. RCLPC needs to furnish the treats: perhaps apples, other fruit, cookies, brownies, make coffee, etc. These may be purchased.

Please consider helping this worthy and fun event. If you can help, please contact MJ Towne Soon:  
m1785@att.net or 815-459-5712.



### *Talamore Trot*

The Talamore Trot is a 5K fundraising event to benefit Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Olivia Harrison's granddaughter, Abby is coping with this incurable disease.

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/>



Nick's Pizza & Pub in Crystal Lake is proud  
to sponsor  
**GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY**

Join us at Nick's Pizza & Pub on **Wednesday, October 12, 2016, from 4pm-10pm**

Bring your family and friends; enjoy a great night of fun and help raise money in support of this organization.

Present this flyer with your dine-in or carry-out order!

**25% of the net sales generated from this fundraiser will go to**

**Good Samaritan Ministry**

*(Alcohol sales and tax will be deducted)*

*\*Flyers are not to be distributed on Nick's Pizza & Pub's property\**

Nick's Pizza & Pub  
856 Pyott Rd  
Crystal Lake IL 60014

# Fundraising

WHILE YOU **Shop**



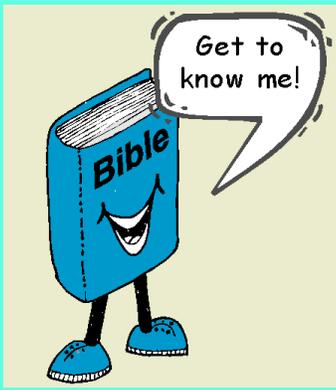
Help our PADS lunches by simply ordering Scrip shopping cards! It is so easy...pickup an order form on the table in the Connecting Link, fill it out, write your check to RCLPC with Scrip on the memo line and place it in the Scrip mail box near the front door. The last day to order in September is Sunday, September 25th. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Blakely or Joan Jensema. Thank you for your support.

*Don't forget. the next SPIRIT  
deadline is: September 30th!*

## *Guatemalan Scholarships*

Thank you for your support for scholarships for men in the area the Living Waters mission serves. Thanks to your generosity, 14 men will be able to attend the conference in early October. It's a hopeful sign for their families and communities, as well as our deepening relationship with them.





*Calling all  
third graders –  
Now is your  
chance!*

On Sunday, September  
18th, during the special  
WEE Worship time at  
both the 9:00 and 11:00

services, you will be presented with your very own Bible. Now you can begin learning on your own about God's love for everyone. The congregation enjoys seeing who has moved up to the third grade. So, tell your families they can attend the service of their choice.



### *Can you lend a helping hand?*

Summer is almost over and a new exciting school year is about to begin. The children's Sunday school program is in need of Sunday school teachers for the upcoming school year. The preschool through second grade classroom is in need of a few more teachers. Curriculum will be provided for you. Along with classroom teachers, we are also in need of gathering time leaders. Gathering time leaders lead all of the children together, preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, for the first 10 – 12 minutes of the education hour, in song, games and prayer. The children then meet their teacher for their lesson of the day. The children love this fellowship time together before they start their lesson. Commitment depends on how many teachers or gathering time leaders we have. Please consider lending a hand and sharing God's love with the children of RCLPC by either being a Sunday school teacher or gathering time leader. Questions or concerns, please contact Karen Nelson at [nelvenska55@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nelvenska55@sbcglobal.net) or 815/477-4862.

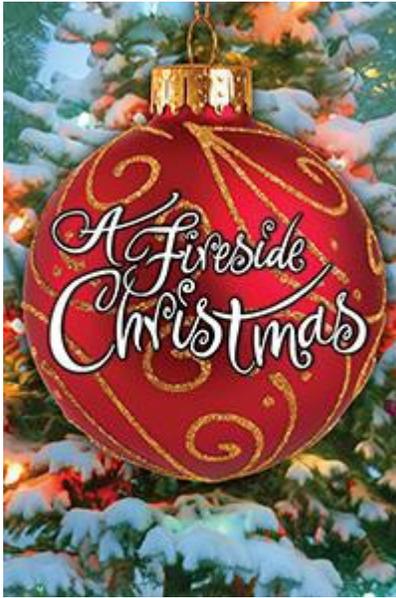
“Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him”

Psalm 127:3

### *Don't Keep God's Promises a Secret.....Spill the Beans!*

The Christian Education Team is excited to announce that *Spill the Beans* will be our new curriculum for our Sunday school this year. This curriculum follows the narrative lectionary which is the guide our weekly worship time (Pastor John and the worship team uses **Spill the Beans** too). The Spill the Beans Resource team believes, “story is the lifeblood of faith. In story we can tell the truth and speak with honesty about things for which there are not yet words. Story contains mystery and is the poetry that forms faith. Stories grow as we grow and can reveal new truths at different times in our lives. So we believe giving stories to people is one of the most important things we can do in sharing our faith. Children and adults hold stories in their being and keep coming back to them throughout life. Our culture is stored in story. The same is true for our faith.” It is our hope by learning the story in worship together and then building on that lesson in our classrooms, parents will be able to continue the conversation at home.

Check it out: <http://spillbeans.org.uk/>



# A Fireside Christmas 2016

RCLPC 1+

November 16, 2016

Since it first debuted in 1993, over a million people have enjoyed our twenty special editions of A FIRESIDE CHRISTMAS. This tradition has made The Fireside the number one choice for Christmas entertainment for guests from around the nation and around the world. Join us as we present another all new edition of A FIRESIDE CHRISTMAS, bringing you a show that will re-kindle the true Christmas spirit in all of us. Through songs, stories, and dances – both traditional and original – we commit ourselves to capturing the very heart and essence of the holiday season. Each show is new and exciting, with gorgeous new costumes and sets, new songs and dancing, and new ways to tell the familiar stories of the season. What never changes is our faithfulness to the traditions and memories of this most joyous of seasons.

- ◆ Wednesday matinee, arrive at 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Dine at 11:15 a.m.
- ◆ Show at 1:30 p.m. \$76.00 with tax

## *Christmas Featured Menu*

Winter Wonderland Salad Strawberries, Mangoes, Candied Pecans and Feta Cheese on Arugula and Kale glazed with a Raspberry Vinaigrette.

Freshly Baked Bread from our Artisan Bakery Beef and Bird Boneless Beef Short Rib slowly braised in a Red Wine Beef Stock. Accompanied by Chicken Waterford, a skinless Chicken Breast, dipped in buttermilk and egg, lightly breaded, sautéed, topped with Corned Beef, Caramelized Leeks and Jarlsberg Swiss Cheese on an Irish Mustard Sauce. Served with Whipped Acorn Squash sweetened with Maple Syrup and Brown Sugar and Fresh Green String Beans.

Trilogy of Cheesecakes Three favorite flavors of our light and creamy homemade Cheesecakes – Bailey's Irish Cream, Key Lime, and Malted Milk Tiger Butter. Coffee, Tea, and Milk

**Commitment needed by September 15 to Sue Neuschel**  
**[sueneuschel@att.net](mailto:sueneuschel@att.net)**

## Living Waters Update –

Again, your RCLPC Living Waters team wants to thank all of you for your support and your prayers. We met as a team and gathered our thoughts and reflections looking back on the past year or more. Our team members are each grateful for the experience of bringing clean, safe water to the people of Jerez. Our partners in the Belén church report that they had a training event for more than 90 adults and have sold more than 112 bottles of water.



They are planning another 25 bottles as donations to the health center, the pre-school, and several families in the church. Such news thrills our team.

While we were in Guatemala, we visited with two additional churches who are requesting consideration for clean water systems, both of which are near to Jerez. We are planning a follow-up visit within the year to Jerez and, while we are there, we are thinking about planning a covenanting meeting with another church. This has led several of our members to plan on getting certified at Clean Water U in the coming months. One will be planning to get certified as an organizer and coordinator, one as an educator, and one or two as installers. We need to have all three areas covered and certified to be able to move ahead with another project and having additional people certified allows for flexibility and shared responsibility as we move ahead.

We enjoyed sharing our experiences with the church on Sunday morning, August 28<sup>th</sup> in the educational hour and really appreciated your questions and interest. The more we begin moving forward to more trips, we have recognized a deep need to have a wider team from the congregation share in our tasks, such as fund raising, communication, translation, grant writing, overseeing the prayer partners program, and outreach to groups such as Rotary and other churches in our local area.

We have heard comments from some of you that you would like to get more deeply involved in this ministry but just cannot do the trip to Guatemala. We would like to ask you get actively involved with us here at home in one of these leadership roles that would lighten the load for some of us on the team. If you feel the Lord tapping you on the shoulder to help bring clean and safe water to the children in Guatemala who need it, please contact Lois Johnson, Cindy Theobald, or Sarah Kelewae for more information.

## Compassion, Peace and Justice Team

In the interest of fostering internal communication and increasing congregational involvement, the Compassion, Peace and Justice team (CPJ) welcomes new members. We meet every other month – our next meeting is Monday, September

12, 7 p.m. at the church. This meeting will include a discussion of the Rev. Dr. William Barber's *The Third Reconstruction*. Rev. Barber, who launched the "Moral Mondays" movement in North Carolina, is an advocate of fusion politics and coalition building. While CPJ is not a book club, discussing the ideas in the book should be thought-provoking and inspirational for those who want to build communities based on equality and justice.



Reading *The Third Reconstruction* is not a prerequisite for attending this meeting. There will be discussion aplenty and all views are respected and welcome. Questions, or to get a copy of the book, contact Mike Rugh at [michael.rugh@outlook.com](mailto:michael.rugh@outlook.com).

## *Back to School Time*

### *Blackhawk Presbytery "Kits Challenge"*

Each year Blackhawk Presbytery asks the churches of the Presbytery to contribute kits for Church World Service. The simple items can make a world of difference in an ongoing development program or when disaster strikes. We have been challenged to assemble **50 School Kits**. Here are three ways you can help RCLPC meet this challenge:



Provide items for the school kits. All items need to be new and in exact sizes and quantities.

- blunt scissors (rounded tip, only)
- 30-centimeter / 12" rulers
- hand-held pencil sharpeners
- large erasers (no pencil cap erasers)
- new, unsharpened pencils with erasers
- boxes of 24 crayons (only 24)

Sew bags to hold the kit supplies. If you could sew 6-10 bags, please notify Cathy Christensen or Lois Johnson, and we'll provide fabric and directions. The more who sew, the fewer bags for each one to make.

Make a donation for kit items and for the \$2 per kit shipping fee that Church World Service asks.

Please bring items to the collection bins in Fellowship Hall by September 25. Our kits will be delivered to people in need here and around the world. Perhaps children in the flooded areas of Louisiana, or in the earthquake-devastated area of central Italy, or in Syrian refugee camps will use these kits to return to school.

Thank you for any help you can provide for children in these difficult circumstances. Heading off to school with a bag full of new supplies will bring a touch of normalcy to their lives.



## *Progress on World Hunger*

Recently the Global Food Security Act and a second bill, the Foreign Aid and Transparency Accountability Act, were passed and signed into law. The first calls for a global food security strategy to fight hunger and malnutrition. Both Illinois Senators Durbin and Kirk, as well as Rep. Hultgren, co-sponsored the bill. Rep. Roskam joined them in voting for the

bill. The second bill, completing the historic pair, ensures consistent and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of assistance programs.

Each year in the spring RCLPC members join Christians from all over the United States to focus on hunger needs by writing letters to our legislators in Washington. RCLPC's letters were among 200,000 letters nationwide that asked for international hunger and nutrition assistance for mothers and children and urged Congress to reform food aid.