



# The Spirit January 2017

Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

At a recent 3rd Sunday Inter-generational Class we explored the meaning of the word "Love" .Scripture is very clear that all forms of "love" are gifts from God. That God is loving is frequently stated in the Bible but it on the lips of Jesus that we are uniquely told that love is God's primary and most essential nature.

Yet are we so used to "Love your neighbor as yourself", " God so loved the world that He gave his only Son", even " Love your enemy" that while we often sound the words we fail to take their meaning to heart and often struggle to know how to express love. We know the sense of it, we know we are supposed to, we understand the need and the power of love...but...how do you love?...and what does "love " mean?

In the Hebrew of the Old Testament " Chesed" is used of the way we are to treat one another usually translated as " loving-kindness".

In the Greek of the New Testament "Agape" means charitable, selfless, altruistic and often refers to parental love. Also used is "Phileo" which is the human response to something experienced as delightful, usually translated as "brotherly love".

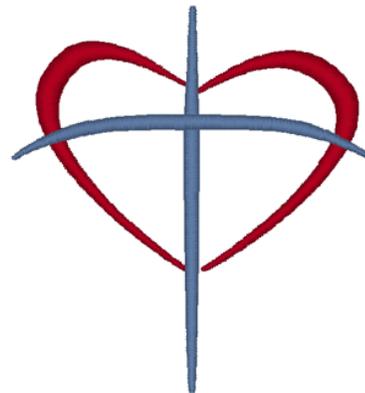
To love is as much an attitude as an action. Though the two are inseparable.

Here is a list which I find very instructional of how we can follow Jesus's command in all aspects of life.I hope and pray that you find it equally useful and perhaps like me you might adopt these actions as your New Year's Resolution.

Blessings and peace in the coming year. Your friend and Pastor ,John

## *10 Ways to Love*

- 1. Listen without interrupting. ( Proverbs 18)*
- 2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)*
- 3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)*
- 4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)*
- 5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)*
- 6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)*
- 7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)*
- 8. Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)*
- 9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)*
- 10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)*





RCLPC Update

clean  
water

for a generation

Happy New Year from your Living Waters Team! Thanks so much for your ongoing prayers and support of this mission as we form partnerships with communities of need for clean water, empower those communities to install and sustain a water purification system, and equip local leaders to lead ongoing health education. If you would like to get involved with this ministry in any way; please contact Lois Johnson or Sarah Kelewae. There are opportunities to help at home or abroad.

### **RCLPC Highlights:**

\$1689 was dropped into the water bottle in Fellowship Hall to support the replacement filters for Jerez and new installation at La Felicidad.

January 8, 2017: LW Education team is meeting with the Sunday school children to share some fun activities that were big hits with the children of Jerez.

February 5 -9, 2017: LW small team will travel to Guatemala for follow up in Jerez and to meet the partners of La Felicidad to covenant for the next installation planned for early 2018.

Planning begins this month for Fiesta Agua Viva. Save the date. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Additional team members have training planned for 2017.

### **November Report From the Water Committee: Belen, Jerez**

Crayons left in July were given to the Christian Education Committee for Vacation Bible Schools.

The cleaning was done for the system on November 13 and the system continues to work well.

35 bottles of water were donated to the Bible Schools, pastor's family, and other people of the village.

We bought seals for the bottles because we already finished the ones that you had left us.

Bottles sold totaled 210.

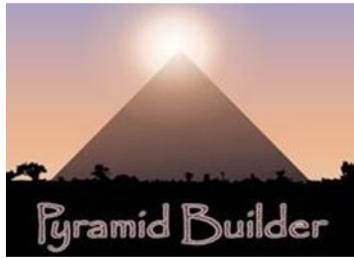
On another note, Brian & Sandi Thompson-Royer Serving in Guatemala at the invitation of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala have shared some good news about two local projects.

3 microloan projects that the Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina have been supporting three microloan groups with over 60 women participating are demonstrating good success. Women learn how to save money and receive small loans and education to start a business or to bolster an existing business, such as inventory for their shops, supplying gas for cooking to homes and restaurants, and raising chickens and pigs

Men in the Mirror program through which men are learning to be better participants in their families and countering the

Please pray for these ministries as a comprehensive way to create healthier families and communities in Guatemala where machismo is high and the respect of women is low.

**“Jesus said “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:37-39**



## *January Sunday School Mission Pyramid Project*

During the month of January, the children's Sunday school classes will be challenging the congregation to help with the donations for their month long "Souper Bowl of Caring" canned food donations. Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the big game on Sunday, February 5, 2017. Since, 1990 young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect food and money during the weeks leading up to the "Big Game". These donations change the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring.

The Sunday school classes will be collecting canned food and building a huge pyramid in the sanctuary with the donations. All donations will be given to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Please consider helping the children during this month-long project. Donations can be brought to the Sunday school classes or in the box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you and blessings to you in the New Year.



### **A Big SHOUT OUT**

to all who contributed items and/or volunteered their time to make the Parent's Night Out event on December 16th a huge success.

The snow storm and cold temperatures didn't stop 22 children from coming to RCLPC to experience the 5 senses of Christmas. It also didn't stop 40+ parents from enjoying a night out. Big smiles all around! Thank you to Santa for stopping by, Lois and Rick Johnson for reading stories, Anna Larsen for planning the games, Cheryl Lilly for planning and organizing the evening, and Lou and Kathy Rabe, Cheryl Lilly, Karen Nelson, Abby Nelson, Marin Lilly, Katie Palmer, and Daniel Sowa for lending a helping hand. It took a village, but we made it happen.

### *Thank you, all volunteers and bakers for the Cookie Walk!*

Thank you to all the volunteers and bakers for the Cookie Walk. It was because of you that this was a wonderful event and once again, a huge success! This year we profited at least \$3,000.00! The cookies were so beautiful, creative and plentiful! You could see the absolute joy and amazement on the cookie buyers faces as they dashed to get their goodies. So thank you to all our fabulous bakers. If you have not picked up your tins, platters or Tupperware...those are on a table in fellowship Hall. Again, thank you!



**The RCLPC Session has called for an Annual Congregational meeting on January 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to present and approve the annual report, present and elect Session elder replacing Bob Grecco and Laura Beamer, and to present and approve the Pastor's 2017 terms of call**

## Time to “Freshen Up”

It’s a new year and we’d like to “freshen up” our worship teams! First and foremost, we want to THANK each of you who offer your time, voice and heart by assisting to help worship happen each week. It couldn't happen without you!



On January 22, we’d like to invite all who serve at Liturgist, Usher or Communion Server to “freshen up.” At noon, we’ll meet for a snack and then each Team Lead will take a few moments to go over the tasks involved. We know some of you have been doing this for years and probably don’t need a reminder, but there have been a few changes taking place and we want to make sure everyone is comfortable with the task at hand and that we are all on the same page. You may have questions too and we’d like to help in any way we can.

For those of you who serve on more than one team, we will be dividing up and you can spend a few minutes with one team and then hop over to another to catch the overview with that one.

This would be the PERFECT time for anyone interested in joining a team to come on board—all are welcome! Again, thanks for being part of the RCLPC family and helping worship happen.

## Women’s Bible Study

### Beginning in January 2017!

There will be a women’s Bible group available at RCLPC. So many have asked for this offering, and we are excited to be able to begin this study. We will be meeting the second and fourth Thursdays at church, 10:00 AM to 12:00. Our first study will be “Broken and Blessed” by Jessica LaGrone and will be the study of Genesis. We will be ordering books by the end of December, so be sure to sign up at church soon. You can also contact the group coordinators, Kathy Rabe & Deb Steele. Please join us!





## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

*"Responding to our Gratitude"*

*January/February*

### **January 13 — Feed my Starving Children Family Packing Event**

8:00-9:30 PM, meet at the Libertyville site, 742 E. Park Avenue, optional monetary donation

### **January 20 — 22 — Chicago Presbytery Middle School Retreat**

7:00 on 1/20– 11:00 AM 1/22 East Bay Camp, Hudson IL

### **January 27th—Putting Peace into Action**

6:30 PM—8:30 PM RCLPC, games and a time to reflect on what it means to put peace into action. Retreat attendees to share experiences.

### **February 10—Love from a Distance: College and Shut in Care Package Creation Family Night**

Bring an item to add to the care package (25 of the same thing) and a taco topping. We'll have a fiesta, write notes to our distant church family and make care packages for those we love.

### **February 24—Mega Fun Friday**

7:45-11:00 PM Be sure to fill in your online form <http://www.megatrampoline.com/WAIVER/> and bring your mega trampoline socks or \$3.00 to purchase them. Unlimited jump during mega hours, slice of pizza, drinks and music!