

August 2014

# The Spirit

*Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church*

## Gratitude and Joy

*Second Corinthians 9:6–8 “The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”*

I have just returned from a conference on Stewardship and at the very first session we looked at this passage. Now I have always thought it was about money, and I thought that is why it was chosen as our opening study. What I immediately learned was that this message from Paul is about how we live not about how we spend! So strike “for God loves a cheerful giver” replace it with “for God loves a cheerful *liver*”.

It is a directive to live with joy. Not always easy with war, destruction, sickness and famine, near and far. Not easy when your life is the one touched by pain and threat, but part of the Kingdom of God here on earth is to live a life of faith. To live as God wills us to live. To live as God would have us live. Do we live a life of gratitude and abundance? Or do we live a life of scarcity and fear? Or a life where we are consumed by consumerism?

What is clear from Scripture and Jesus’ life is that we worship a God of abundance and generosity who makes the sun shine and the rain fall on all, without reference to need or want. A God who wishes well and healing and contentment. We live in a world of wonder where the question “do we deserve this beautiful day, or this sunset, or this love?” should never be asked. In fact, the question should not even exist.

So look around with all your heart and mind and body and be grateful. Start a daily gratitude list. Smile at the checkout operator.

Read Paul’s words again

Life is good, life is God.

Pastor John.



Dear RCLPC family,

*Thank you so much for the beautiful blessing book! We so enjoyed reading all of the encouraging notes you all left for us. We will treasure the book; it's sitting on our coffee table right now! Also thank you for the kind card and generous gift. We are so blessed to be joining such a loving community as newlyweds. We look forward to getting to know all of you better.*

Love,

*Matthew and Jessica Brown*

## Take a Look!

Special thanks to **Lori Kiergaard-Thompson** for painting the beautiful paddle hanging in the Connecting Link. The paddle is the RCLPC contribution to Crystal Lake's Centennial Celebration.

Crystal Lake is holding a scavenger hunt through August with a drawing for prizes for the people who visit participating businesses.

Information available at city hall, as well as in the RCLPC office.



## Youth Ministry Year Starting Soon!

Kick off Sunday is close and we have lots of events planned for the youth groups. This year we will begin meeting every Sunday night from 7-8:30. We will play fun games, eat food, laugh, learn about God, and have small group time. In addition to these weekly get-togethers, we will have other fun events like lock ins, bowling, service projects, movie nights and more! The Sunday night meetings begin September 7th at 7pm! Hope to see you there!

# Your September 7<sup>th</sup> Kick-Off Sunday Education Adventure

## Bibles

The congregation will recognize all of our third grade children during both our 9:00 and 11:00 worship services. This gives families a choice in which service they would like to attend. Pastor John and Matt will present each student with their very own Bible.

## Mission Outreach Hike

Did you know that our Sunday School journey begins with a hike this year? Sure does. All children, and interested parents, will have fun walking the immediate Ridgefield neighborhood. It will be neat to visit the local houses and say “hello” to the folks by handing out a small RCLPC gifts together with an invite to our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Kids will gather in their classrooms at 10:00 for taking attendance, and then as a group, set off on the trek. The walk should take about half-an-hour. And don’t think we forgot about treats – of course not! It’s back to Fellowship Hall for snacks and a chance to hear about the coming year’s events.

## Adult ED

Lots of exciting things are planned for the coming year. Everyone should plan on dropping by Fellowship Hall at 10:00 for snacks. This will give you the opportunity to find out about what new education experiences are in the offing.

## The Future of Food

Currently there is an 8 month series entitled, The Future of Food in the National Geographic magazine.

The August 2014 article by Tracie McMillan is titled, The New Face of Hunger.

This excellent article could be a wonderful way to begin a conversation that brings about new ideas to help us meet the needs of our neighbors in need.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/hunger/>



# Choirs For All Ages Begin in September

The last of summer vacation is upon us and school is just around the corner. CHOIR IS RETURNING IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS.

Little Lambs/Sounds of Joy choir, ages preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Jubilation youth choir, ages 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and adult choir begin rehearsals in September. Check your emails for details. They will be arriving soon.

We begin our year learning, singing, and sharing the stories of God's promises made to all people using the colors of the covenant—the rainbow.

*"Mind, Body, Spirit, Voice! It takes a whole person to sing and rejoice!" Helen Kemp*



**SPIRIT**  
**Articles due**  
**09/05/14**

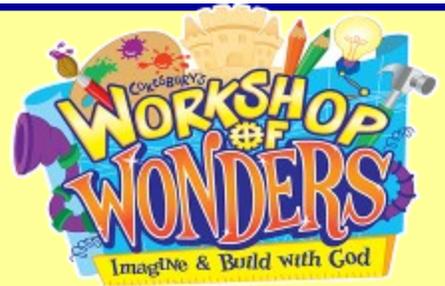


## Help Wanted!

A neat painter to help Matt paint the youth group rooms sometime in the next couple of weeks. Pay is not mentioned...because there isn't any. Willing to help? Please contact Matt Brown at 815-219-9796, email at [matthew@rclpc.org](mailto:matthew@rclpc.org) or just stop in the office to chat with him.



# VBS a Huge Success!



Big thanks go out to ALL who helped this year at VBS. We had so much fun and truly appreciate all of those who gave so generously of their time and talent.

Habitat for Humanity believes that everyone should have a decent, safe, and affordable place to live. To achieve that goal, Habitat has built or repaired more than 800,000 houses and served more than 4 million people worldwide. Right here in McHenry County, the affiliate has completed 26 homes.

This Summer, the VBS children generously ‘showered’ the next Habitat for Humanity homeowner with kitchen items. From dish soap to dish cloths, scraper to strainer, measuring cups to cookie tray, a variety of items filled the box to bursting.

Along with kitchen items, cards and a welcome banner show their love and care for a family in need. Thank you for your generosity VBS-ers!



## RCLPC History Snapshot



The 1960's began a period of tremendous growth in Crystal Lake as unprecedented building brought folks with more ties to Chicago-area business than to farming. While many small, rural churches might have been resistant to change and reluctant to accept these newcomers, the Ridgefield congregation greeted them warmly and adapted graciously to the changes that came with this growth. The Rev. A.G. Tozer was installed in 1962. During his term of service, the church chancel was rebuilt and its furniture, designed by Rev. Tozer to harmonize with the early American architecture of the building was installed. Pews and choir stalls from the McCormick Theological Seminary were restored by the congregation. In 1966, extensive remodeling took place. We added two church school storage rooms, storage space, an enclosed stairway, a new entry, new parking facilities, and a driveway.

## A Word From Building and Grounds

Did you know that last winter was the coldest on records with the third highest snowfall? Our natural gas usage was about 38% above a four year average; additionally, the price spiked by double as the whole country ran low on natural gas. As a result, the church budget for natural gas has been exceeded. The deficit will get even bigger during the rest of the year because we are set up to buy natural gas in the summer months at (hopefully) cheaper prices for use during the coming winter months. Just like squirrels do with nuts. The good news is that July of 2014 tied the record for the coolest July on record, so we used less air conditioning. Guess it will all come out in the wash.



You're invited to

# FIESTA CHILAMA!

Saturday, September 13, 2014  
Open House 3-7pm

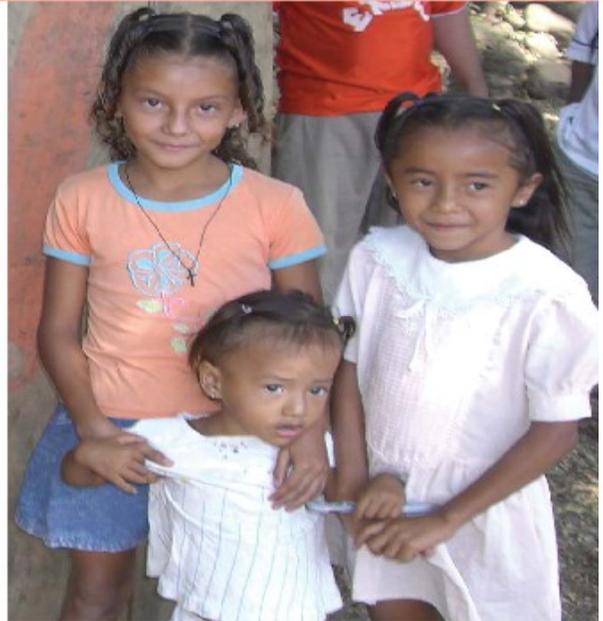
Homemade Salvadoran Papusas  
Beer, Wine, and Lemonade  
Music by the O' Brothers Band  
Salsa dance Lessons

en la casa de Brian and Libby Pappalardo  
1610 Broadway Ave, Crystal Lake

RSVP  
lib4paz@comcast.net or call or text to 815-353-7473

Hosted by Friends of Chilama  
Kathy Lewis, Carlos Lieva, Ann Legg, Kristin Thurow,  
Evelin Fischer, Mary and Jay Fox, Pappalardos

Donations accepted to benefit the organic kitchen garden project, children's art classes, women's sewing cooperative, and student scholarships in Chilama, El Salvador.



## Plan Ahead For Adult Ed

***Living the Gospel beyond the US while in the US:* An ex-citing Adult Education series is coming to RCLPC this fall.**

**Beginning September 14, Ann Legg will present a 4 week series on Colombia, Venezuela and El Salvador, three countries to which she has recently traveled. Watch for more information on this series.**

**Beginning in October, Alice Haznedl will facilitate a class using *Zionism Unsettled*, a study guide prepared by the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA).**

What role have Zionism and Christian Zionism played in shaping attitudes and driving historical developments in the Middle East and around the world? How do Christians, Jews, and Muslims understand the competing claims to the land of Palestine and Israel? What steps can we take to bring peace, reconciliation, and justice to the homeland that Palestinians and Israelis share?

*Zionism Unsettled* embraces these critical issues fearlessly and with inspiring scope. The booklet and companion DVD draw together compelling and diverse viewpoints from Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Israel, Palestine, the US, and around the globe. By contrasting mainstream perceptions with important alternative perspectives frequently ignored in the media, *Zionism Unsettled* is an invaluable guide to deeper understanding.

Ponder these questions as you prepare for an enlightening experience and an opportunity to see the world and the Gospel in a new light.



## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RAPID INFORMATION NETWORK

### Our prayers are with you

*“When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don’t take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own.” —Leviticus 19:33–34 (The Message)*

Recent months have seen a flood of Central American unaccompanied children and mothers with children, primarily from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, making their way across Mexico and into the United States. This influx—motivated largely by violence in their home countries—has been deemed a humanitarian crisis.

The US government has appointed FEMA to coordinate the various federal agencies that are providing the necessary emergency services, including holding the children and families in detention.

As people of faith, we are called to treat foreigners as God’s people who are to be welcomed. Many of our Presbyterian congregations along the border are doing just that by providing shelter, food, and clothing and helping to meet other basic humanitarian needs.



[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) is working to provide financial support to congregations and mid councils along the border, and members of the National Response Team are helping mid councils devise strategies to meet the needs of the children and families. We are also collaborating with ecumenical and interfaith partners who have experience working with refugees and immigrants and are also responding to this growing crisis.

**You too have an opportunity to respond with compassion, generosity, and the acceptance of God’s call. Please stand in the GAP for the children and mothers.**

### What you can do

[Donate now](#)

**GIVE:** Your financial gifts to DR000095—Refugee Emergencies will equip Presbyterian congregations and mid councils to continue to meet needs during the initial phase. The need for assistance is not likely to end soon, and your gifts will help address other needs likely to emerge. You can give through your Presbyterian congregation, make a gift [online](#), or mail a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

**ACT:** Assemble and send Gift of the Heart hygiene and school [kits](#). Advocate to express your concern for the protection of unaccompanied children and for upholding the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the PC(USA) General Assembly, wrote a [letter to President Obama](#), and we encourage you to send a similar letter of concern to members of Congress. Stay informed. Like us on [Facebook](#), and visit the [PDA website](#) to learn about more ways you can actively participate.

**PRAY:** that the grace and love of Christ will cover the children and families who have come, that they will be treated with dignity and respect, and that their safety and protection will be ensured.