

The Spirit

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

April 16, 2014

It's all in the Numbers

Unless you study ancient census information or are interested in the source of the phrase "to get on one's high horse" (Numbers 16:1), I think any of us would be hard-pressed to gain inspiration from the Book of Numbers.

However, numbers (of a more ordinary variety) have been on my mind rather a lot in recent weeks.

The Number 1

As in 1 person—Amy Connell. Having just retired from her teaching career, Amy came to work in the office as a volunteer for a few weeks and ended up staying for months...and months...and months. What an asset she has been! Calm, helpful, loving, and what an organizer. All I can really say as we prepare to say "farewell" to her at the end of the month is: Those kids she taught were the luckiest kids. Thank you, Amy, for all you have done. You will be sorely missed. Please drop in and see us anytime—we miss you already.

Of course there is another 1, Jenny Hay, who will be taking over the office duties as Amy really retires this time. I am sure we will all welcome Jenny, and look forward to getting to know and love her as much as we do Amy.

The Number 11

Yes, 11 new members were voted into our fellowship at the last Session meeting, and will be officially welcomed during worship soon after Easter. Some of them have been around for several months, and some are very new to RCLPC. All of them are wonderful people who bring grace, gifts, and presence to our congregation. Welcome to one and all.

Now that is my definition of a thriving congregation, but they would not have stayed if it were not for you welcoming, worshipping, and caring for one another and the world beyond our walls.

The Number 175

Speaking of caring for others, I rashly but hopefully committed our congregation to put together 175 School Kits for Church World Services by November. CWS distributes the School Kits to children in developing nations who would not otherwise have access to school supplies. I was told "we managed to do 43 kits last year with difficulty—175 can't be done," but I have faith that we can do it, and it is the most fitting project I can think of to celebrate our anniversary.

*The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.*

Numbers 6:24

(continued on page 2)



CWS School Kit Ingredients:

- 1 pair of metal scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 70-count spiral notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf paper)
- 1 12" ruler
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1 large eraser
- 6 new pencils with erasers
- 1 box of 24 crayons (Dillons to provide)
- 1 12" x 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles (please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks).

Pack all items inside the cloth bag. A requested donation of \$2 per kit will ship the kit from CWS warehouses around the world!

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Check the box at left to find details of what each kit consists of. The Dillon family has already committed to supply all of the crayons, but I need you, individually or in groups, to step up and provide the other items. If our fathers and mothers in the faith could keep RCLPC as a beacon of Christ's love for all these years, then today we can show children who have been caught in disasters, near and far, that the love of Christ is for them.

The numbers 10, 35, 100 and 6 million

On the Sunday after Easter, our neighbors the Jewish Congregation of McHenry County are celebrating 10 years of service from Rabbi Maralee, 35 years as a congregation, and of course, the 100th anniversary of the Ridgefield School building. They were excited to discover and inform me that records show that for the

two years between the original school burning down and the present school being opened, it seems that the school continued in our building. Records also show that the school board was made up entirely of members of RCLPC. We are all invited to join them at 1:00 p.m. on April 27th to celebrate their anniversaries, and we have invited them to join us in ours.

However, that Sunday is also Holocaust Memorial Day, and Rabbi Maralee and congregation have invited Lee Ekstrom, our Clerk, and I to represent RCLPC at a brief Shoa Memorial service at 10:00 a.m. We will take all our prayers, sorrow, and compassion to our neighbors on this solemn occasion. We are honored to accept, and Session have given permission for me to slip out just before the end of our first morning worship. Matt or one of the elders will conclude our service.

Blessings and peace,

John

A Warm Welcome to RCLPC's Newest Members!

Danielle Gilbert

Almarie Flanary

Janet Kvam-Holub

Bill and Marlene Best

Kevin and Tricia Heaphy

Quentin Blome and Phyllis Mueller

Nancy Vales

Rose Regalado



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of homemade Vegetable and Wild Rice Soup or Vegan Minestrone and warm rolls as we feast and pray together considering Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Reverend John Dillon will lead us through the story in which we come to understand Jesus' redefinition of the Passover feast. We see God's abundance,

the joy God desires for us, and the true meaning of love being broken and poured out for others. Please sign up in the Connecting Link so we can know how much food to prepare.

Good Friday - April 18, 7:00 p.m.

We'll meet in the Sanctuary to contemplate the crucifixion through hymns, scripture, words, special music, and imagery.

Easter Sunday - April 20, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15, & 11:15 a.m.

He is risen! Join in the celebration at our four Easter morning services. Both the 10:15 and the 11:15 services will conclude with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

8:00 Traditional worship with organ

9:00 Contemporary worship with The Band

10:15 Traditional worship with the Jubilation Choir

11:15 Traditional worship with the Adult Choir



Easter Pancake Breakfast

Have a delicious breakfast at church on Easter Sunday and support the youth group mission project!

The RCLPC Men's Group will once again cook up sky-high stacks of their famous pancakes, pan after pan of golden scrambled eggs, and vast piles of crunchy bacon and savory sausage patties. Round out the meal with fruit cocktail, along with coffee and juice.

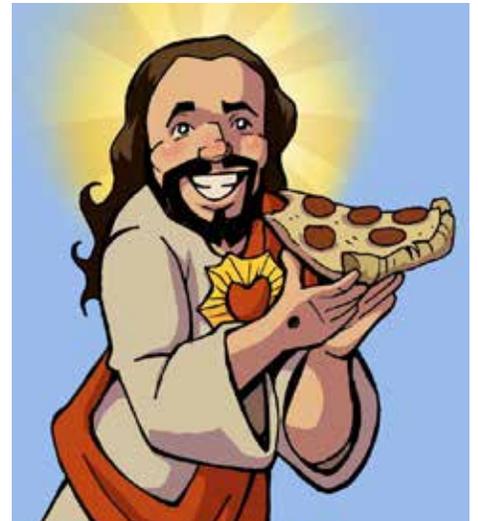
We will start serving at 8:30 a.m. and go until the 11:00 service begins. So be sure to come between services, to celebrate food, friends, family, and the resurrection at RCLPC!



GSM Pizza Fundraiser TODAY, April 16

Support the Crystal Lake Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) by eating at Nick's Pizza & Pub in Crystal Lake at any time TODAY, April 16. Nick's is generously giving GSM 15% of the net food sales generated (not alcohol or tax) when you eat in or order carryout with a Nick's/GSM coupon today. GSM gives short-term financial help to Crystal Lake people in need and people who are members of Crystal Lake churches. Check out the menu ahead of time at www.nickspizzapub.com. Coupons are available in the Connecting Link, or download and print your own coupons from the RCLPC website, rclpc.org.

See you there!



The W's "175 Years of Fashion" Show and High Tea Ticket Deadline is Fast Approaching!



Invite your mom, daughter, sister or friends to join your RCLPC "sisters" for a lovely Spring afternoon of fellowship, fun, and fashion on Saturday, April 26th at 2 p.m. We will enjoy the taste sensations of a variety of teas and traditional teatime treats while experiencing a history of vintage fashions provided by "Memories are Made of Fashion".

Reserve your seat by purchasing tickets for yourself and your guests in the Connecting Link...but **HURRY!** Tickets are just \$12.00 each, and will only be available through Easter Sunday, April 20th!

Questions? Email Jodie LeFevre at jodlzl@aol.com.

Calling All Ladies...Your Input is Needed!

Would you be interested in participating in or leading a weekly women's bible study group or book group? What about a craft/hobby circle? Or a walking group that meets at a local park for some exercise and fresh air with friends?

Know anyplace that would make a fun "W" summer field trip?

Please send any and all bright ideas to Jodie LeFevre at jodlzl@aol.com!

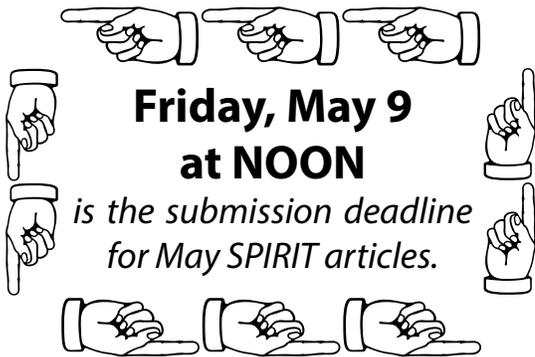
RCLPC 2014 Rummage Sale Seeks Cashiers

The Rummage Sale Team is looking for volunteer cashiers for the sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 13-14. Duties include calculating the total of each sale, collecting money, giving change, and bagging items purchased. Better yet, why not team up with a mom, dad, friend, son, or daughter and work together? Individuals and teams can sign up to work full or partial days. For more information or to sign up, call Nancy Vazzano at (815) 477-5301.



Extra, Extra! Read All About It!

Great News! Marie Randall and Dick Virkus have graciously volunteered to be our newspaper contacts. We are hoping that by having them be the point people with the newspapers, we are more likely to be published. Please submit event notices at least 2 weeks ahead of the event to Marie (mar6154@yahoo.com) and Dick (canadanut@comcast.net). Pictures of past events also very welcome!



New York, New York!

Congratulations to our RCLPC choir members who will be singing at New York's Lincoln Center in May. They have been invited to perform, along with other selected church choirs from across the US, a new Bradley Ellingboe musical work entitled, "Star Song." Best wishes to them for this once-in-a-lifetime experience!



Calling All Kids for RCLPC VBS

That's right, mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School returns to RCLPC July 21-25 with tons of fun—stories and lessons, games to play, projects to do, songs to sing, and snacks to eat. Keep a look out—more info coming soon! Contact Jodi Iddings or Wendy Sanders with any questions.

Please Join Us...

On Sunday, May 4, we will host a program at RCLPC presented by Journeycare that will help you have the conversation with your loved ones about personal, emotional, and spiritual needs in case of serious illness. Also included in the program will be an explanation of hospice and palliative care that Journeycare provides. It is an informative way to know what your mom, dad, spouse, or friend truly wants and to have those wishes conveyed in a clear way. It all begins at noon with a light meal followed by a great DVD about "Having the Conversation" and ending with time for questions. Please sign up in the Connecting Link. Questions? Contact Kathy Rabe or Karen Leuchtmann.

Earth Care Team Green Living Fair

Come to the Connecting Link and adjacent hallways to see what we can learn from each other about caring for the Earth.



- Get tips for caring for your health & the environment
- Find out where to recycle and reuse in the McHenry County Green Guide '14
- Learn ways to save money on "green" cleaning
- Try a sample of fair trade chocolate
- And more!

Do you have a eco-friendly tip/business or activity that you want to share with your RCLPC friends? Some ideas: tips for canning/freezing summer produce, native gardening, home cleaning products, birdhouses, etc.

If so, contact Pat & Terry Dieckhoff by April 22 to reserve a table for your "eco-friendly" product or service. Limited spaces available.

(815) 245-5658 tpdieckhoff@ameritech.net

Calling All Lumberjacks!

Saturday, April 26, is EARTH CARE PROJECT DAY at RCLPC.

To celebrate that special day, we will be having woods clean up from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Building & Grounds Team and the Senior High Youth Group. We will be renting a wood chipper for removal of three trees that have partially fallen, plus general maintenance of trees and branches damaged during the winter.

Please wear heavy long pants and bring gloves, clippers and loppers plus brush and wood chip handling equipment. Even if you can only come for part of that time, it will be a BIG help. Questions? Call Bob Grecco, 815-477-4169.

Earth Care Classes - 10:00 Education Hour Sundays - April 27, May 4, and May 11

The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect it and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family.

Several learning opportunities have been planned for the month of April. Please join us if you are free at that time. You are welcome to come to whichever topics interest you--come to one or all!

April 27 Living Walls: Growing Up

Join our own Linda Popp, Master Gardener, for slides that open our horizons to greening our part of God's earth in new ways.

May 4 Green Living Fair

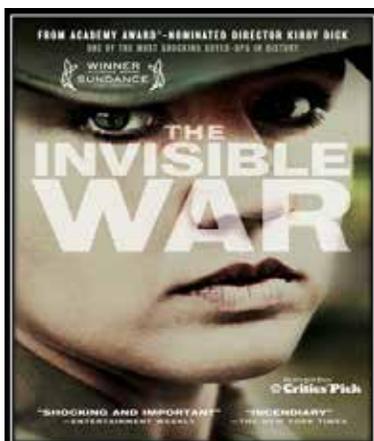
Walk the halls, Gathering Place, and Connecting Link of RCLPC to discover green living tips our members use. You'll find recycling information, rain barrels, easy-to-make green cleaning and laundry products, where to find local food and how to preserve it, and more. Lots of simple ways to make you and your family healthier and help the earth!

May 11 Coming Soon to a Community Near You: A Local Food Cooperative

We'll learn about the up and coming McHenry County Food Cooperative, opening in the spring of 2015. Food co-ops are member-owned grocery stores that emphasize social responsibility and equality and offer natural, healthy, and locally sourced foods.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Earth Care Team.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Psalm 24:1



Documentary Screening at RCLPC

The Invisible War, a disturbing and emotional documentary about sexual assault in the military, will be screened at RCLPC at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

Sponsored by Lake-McHenry Veterans and Family Services, the screening will be followed by coffee, snacks, and discussion.

Please RSVP to Kati Beck at Veterans and Family Services by Wednesday, April 23 at (815) 322-2620.

Session Highlights, March 24, 2014

- Session approved changes to the JC Button Foundation Policies and Procedures that incorporate proper legal wording.
- Vision planning continues with exploration of a customized approach derived from the Presbytery MAP program.
- RCLPC's Earth Care Team will make a presentation about the Earth Care Congregation program at Presbytery on April 8.
- Lenten and Easter services:
 - Maundy Thursday meal and service with communion, April 17, 6:30pm (helpers needed for serving and clean-up)
 - Good Friday service, April 18, 7pm
 - Easter Sunday services, April 20, 8am, 9am, 10:15am, 11:15am
- Office staff position descriptions were reviewed and approved. More than 60 applications from well-qualified candidates have been received.
- Building and Grounds has signed a two-year contract with the current electricity provider.
- Community Awareness Team is planning participation in the July 4 parade in Crystal Lake as a means of letting the community know about RCLPC.
- \$1000 from RCLPC's Designated Mission was sent to Family Alliance in March. This organization provides needed healthcare services to adults, such as day health, memory care, geriatric psychiatry, and transportation.
- 62 letters were written on March 23 as part of the 2014 Offering of Letters on behalf of hungry people.
- Adult education opportunities during Lent include a class led by Matt on Wednesday evenings and one led by the Pastor on Sundays. Easter baskets for Home of the Sparrow residents will be assembled by Sunday School children. Planning for VBS is underway. Youth activities have included rock climbing and a drum circle.
- Church members are asked to let the office know of all scheduled meetings so that the heat and doors can be properly set.
- Nominating Committee is completing the slate of nominees in preparation for a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 18, during the 10 o'clock hour in Fellowship Hall to elect new office bearers and consider the change in our Bylaws detailed below.
- At that time we will also be holding a Teacher Appreciation celebration.
- Session agreed to bring a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to the congregational meeting. The amendment would add a Youth Elder as an additional Session position. Nominations will bring a high school student congregation member, as a candidate for this position. The Youth Elder would be a one year position with all the responsibilities and privileges of eldership, would represent our youth and experience a leadership opportunity
- Approved as new members are: Janet Holub, Almarie Flannery, Nancy Vales, Rose Regalado, Bill Best, Marlene Best, Danielle Gilberts, Kevin Heaphy, Tricia Heaphy, and Quentin Blome. Quentin is the Rev. Phyllis Mueller's spouse and we also welcome her to our fellowship. A worship date when we will joyfully welcome our new members will be announced soon.
- The congregation has been invited to attend centenary events at our neighbor, the McHenry County Jewish Congregation, originally the Ridgefield School District 48 building on Sunday, April 27. A former student or two can be found in our number!
- Next meeting: Monday, April 28, 2014, at 7:00 pm