

# The Spirit

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

May 14, 2014

## Serenity

I am sure the opening phrases of this prayer are familiar to most of us. It is commonly attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr, though there is some doubt that it was completely original. But it is this version which is best known, and gained wide circulation when it was adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous in 1942.

However, how many of us know the second half? I was not familiar with it at all and am very grateful to have found an article about in the Huffington Post.

You might also be surprised to learn that Niebuhr, best known for his Presidency of Union Seminary, NY, worked as a pastor in Detroit in the early part of the 20th century. His religious viewpoint was forged in the real world.

First, he was the son of German immigrants and suffered great suspicion and even hatred during World War 1. Then he went head to head with the KKK and later sided with the Automakers Union against Henry Ford's draconian factory conditions. Later in life, he was an ardent supporter of American involvement in WW2; he was pro-nuclear weapons; anti-communist and anti-Vietnam war.

Even if you do not agree, or are confused by the variety of all his political positions, it cannot be denied that he was no stranger to challenge. These words of prayer come from a warrior whose life, livelihood and reputation were ridiculed and threatened for saying what he believed Jesus would have said under the same conditions.

With that background information, I find the words even more powerful and applicable to much more than fighting personal demons, important as that is. The article in the Huffington Post concluded: "The prayer reveals five timeless truths (and no doubt more!) that challenge us to re-imagine what serenity really is:

1. Acceptance is not laziness.
2. We must have courage to change ourselves.
3. Hardship can be good for you.
4. Surrendering requires courage, too.
5. Happiness is attainable—now and in the future."

Wise words forged in the heat of real life.

Blessings and peace,

John

*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
forever in the next.*

*Amen.*

# The RCLPC Rummage Sale is Fast Approaching!

The 2014 Rummage Sale is almost here, but we're not there yet—there's still lots that needs to be done, and we still need volunteers to help it all happen!

If you can help us out, please add your name to the signup sheet on the Community Board or call Marge Stewart, Linda Schweers, or Mary Finch. **We can use helpers in any and all areas of the sale, but the need is greatest in the following areas:**

- **Day-of Volunteers** - cashiers, greeters, baggers...whether you can work for a couple of hours or all weekend long, we need you!

- **Sports Equipment Leader** - we're still in search of a volunteer to take charge of organizing and pricing the sports/exercise equipment room.

- **Sorting and Pricing** - everyone is welcome to come and help June 9-12!

*Here's the timeline of all the upcoming Rummage Sale events and deadlines:*

**Sunday, May 18  
Noon**

Clean up/ set up for the sale AND leaders' meeting, where you will get your supplies

**May 25 - June 9  
M -F 9am - 1pm & 4-7pm,  
Weekends 9am - 1pm**

Donations collected in Fellowship Hall. Items can include clothing, toys, housewares, furniture, sports equipment, linens, dishes, seasonal decorations, books, CDs, etc. Please, no TVs, cell phones, computers, cribs, or discontinued car seats.

**Sunday, June 1**

Deadline for requesting any large item pickups: Please contact Marge Stewart @ 815-459-9008. Leave your name, address and phone number.

**Saturday, June 7**

Large item pickup

**June 9 - June 12**

Sort and price donations (Volunteers extremely welcome)

**June 9 - June 12**

Watch for the new Silent Auction Table in the Connecting Link

**Friday, June 13, 9am - 3pm Rummage Sale!**

**Saturday, June 14, 9am - 1pm Rummage Sale Half-Price Day**

**Saturday, June 14, 1 - 2pm**

Clean up for Blessing Barn Pick up

**Bins are located in Fellowship Hall, the Connecting Link and the Gathering Place to collect the following donations still needed:**

- Brown paper grocery bags
- Plastic shopping bags
- Newspaper or tissue paper (for wrapping)
- Clothes hangers
- We also need to borrow tables for display purposes. Please put your name on the underside so we can return it to the right person!

# Choose Your Own Adventure!

Believing in the priesthood of all believers – and knowing that the Holy Spirit is working in all of us, forming us as disciples of Christ, we are offering a special opportunity for you to participate in worship during the summer:

- Perhaps there is a topic or issue that you've always wanted to hear addressed from the pulpit;
- Perhaps you have a favorite (or confusing) scripture lesson that you would like to see explored;
- Perhaps you've had the title or subject matter of a sermon running around in your head for a while now.

This is your chance! Email your choices to [johnd@rclpc.org](mailto:johnd@rclpc.org). Get them in by May 28, 2014 and your choices will be assembled into this summer's preaching series and announced in the June *Spirit*.

## Ecumenical Advocacy Days

On March 21-24 of this year, Dawn Condill and Ann Legg attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) in Washington, D.C. Nearly 1,000 people came to attend workshops under the theme "Resisting Violence, Building Peace." Watch videos of the Plenary sessions at <http://advocacydays.org/2014/04/02/ead-2014-plenary-videos-now-available/> to get up to speed on what was discussed at this national-level peace-focused series of events. You can also quickly send a note to your congressional representatives about issues of nonviolence at <http://www.capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=63155876&type=CO>. Let them know that their constituents are standing on the side of peace. And save the date for next year's EAD: April 17-20, 2015! For more information see Dawn or Ann.



## A Huge "Thank You"

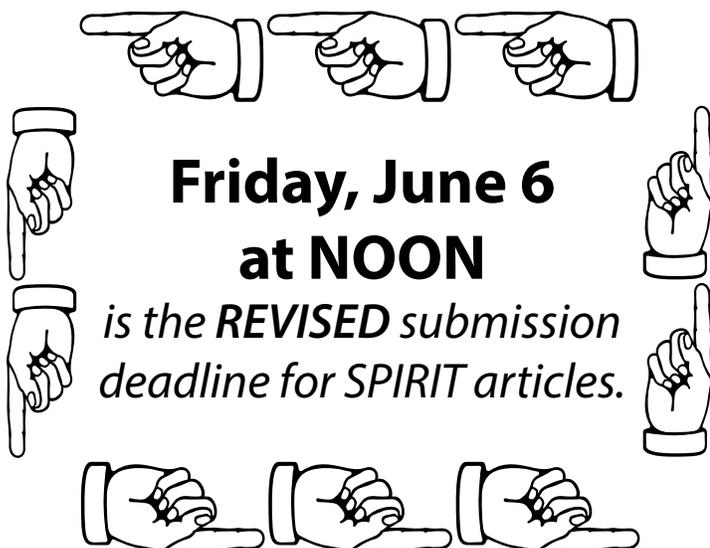
The Easter basket mission project was, once again, a huge success! Because of your support and generosity RCLPC was able to amply fill 35 baskets for the children and moms. Also, each child received a Subway card and Walmart card and each Mom received a Walmart card and Target card. In addition to all of that there were additional donations of clothing, books, stuffed animals and personal hygiene products. Your generosity assisted Home of the Sparrow in helping mothers and children in need in McHenry County and helped to brighten their Easter this year. Thank you again for being a blessing to the families of Home of the Sparrow. - Karen Nelson



sharing resources. changing lives.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

For nearly 60 years Presbyterians have joined together through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Our gifts to this denominational offering help provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. The 2014 OGHS from our congregation totaled \$2201. Thank you for your continued circle of generosity helping God's people in need.



## Someone(s) you should meet...

Joyce and Cy Zank met in a bar. Well, actually, they met at the local restaurant/tavern where Joyce was celebrating her birthday. They are still together, some 65+ years later. I recently sat down with them and talked about our church and enjoyed the stories they had to share. There were so many that we will have to do this again and again!

Joyce grew up in our church and has lived most of her life in Ridgefield. She remembers the former ministers, one in particular they would avoid riding with in his car since he was such a terrible driver that they feared for their lives. There were stories about all the things the Women's Group did for the church and the community and the Session meetings that Cy attended for many years.

Cy remembers all the projects and construction in the church, and he was responsible for many changes in the building. His company built Fellowship Hall (he has some great pictures of that project) and he still remembers all the changes and additions done through the years.

One of my favorite stories came from Joyce. She remembers sitting on her front porch with her young sisters on a hot summer night and they were singing songs together. The minister lived across the street in the church manse, and he would call out requests to the girls and they would sing them for him. Today Cy and Joyce still live in Ridgefield and love reminiscing about their life at our church. They are a treasure of history and a delightful couple to spend time with.

- Kathy Rabe

## HELP WANTED: Sunday School Teachers

The high school youth of our church are in need of Sunday school teachers for the 2014-2015 school year, starting in the fall. Jim and Andrea Pracht have done a fabulous job leading our high school youth every Sunday for the past two years, but will be stepping down after this school year. Curriculum will be provided for you, but the class is generally a laid back discussion time. The commitment depends on how many teachers step forward to lead the class. Please consider volunteering to teach in this class. If you do, you will find that it is rewarding for both our youth and the teachers. Any questions, please contact Matt Brown or Karen Nelson.



## 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.

## Sunday = FUNDAY in Summer School!

Calling all middle schoolies and high schoolies to a Summer Sunday school of Bible crafting. You all know how Mr. Nelson's class never finishes our craft projects! Well, this Summer is going to be devoted to Sundays with lots of crafts and fun stuff. You will have a "funner" Summer by coming. Of course there will be treats!!!

Hope to see you there during June and July at the 10:00 education hour, except for July 6th. "Grammatical errors on porpoise!!" Any questions, please contact Eric Nelson at [nelson5591@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nelson5591@sbcglobal.net).



## Teacher Appreciation Sunday

Please join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 18th, at 10:00 am as we honor our Sunday school teachers and thank them for their time and talents with the youth of RCLPC. There will be cake!! This year's teachers are: Joan Jensema, Laurie Jensen, Raechel Sowa, Kathy Rabe, Amy LeFevre, Cindy Nichols, Alex Sowa, Julia & Rob Baser, Nancy Blakely, Cathy & Aage Christensen, Wendy Sanders, Jodi Iddings, Al Popp, Allison Larsen, Eric Nelson, and Jim & Andrea Pracht. If you see any of these wonderful people, please stop and thank them for volunteering to be a Sunday school teacher. Hope to see you there!

# Session Highlights, April 28, 2014

- The congregational meeting to elect new office bearers and consider the change in Bylaws to add a Youth Elder will be held on Sunday, May 18, at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall. This will be followed by the Teacher Appreciation celebration.
- Vision Planning has selected Pat Wakely as facilitator for an extended process to discern RCLPC's path for the future.
- The office copier lease will be renewed at the same rate, with new equipment installed.
- Our appreciation to Worship Team for the Maundy Thursday supper and to Worship Enhancement for their work in the sanctuary through Lent and into Easter.
- Building and Grounds reported that a roof leak has been stopped. One of the refrigerators needs to be replaced. Utility costs year-to-date have been higher than expected due to the cold winter. Kristi Geggie and Karen Ray have joined the team to plan for design and furnishing improvements.
- Community Awareness is planning participation in the July 4 parade, to be held July 6, in Crystal Lake as a means of letting the community know about RCLPC. We will also take part in a community type of scavenger hunt that will bring people out to RCLPC for Crystal Lake's centenary celebration.
- Stewardship reported that the rummage sale leaders continue to seek more help, including leadership of the sports/garden/tool area. The RCLPC e-giving music fundraiser at the Presbyterian Mission Exchange has been changed to an account for our general fund.
- Mission noted that \$2100 has been received to date for One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides disaster response and hunger assistance. This summer's RCLPC food truck will feature fresh, local produce for hungry McHenry County neighbors.
- Invisible War, shown by the Compassion, Peace, and Justice team, educated RCLPC members and several from the community on sexual assault in the military.
- Earth Care thanked those who worked in the RCLPC woods on Saturday, April 26. The youth and the Building and Grounds team led the effort to clear out and make usable a portion of the woodlot.
- Christian Education reported that planning for VBS, to be held July 21-25, is underway. The three offerings in adult education throughout the year have received a good response and will continue next year.
- Approved as new members are Art and Jan Schwanke. We welcome the Schwankes and ten other new members to the congregation on May 4.
- Ordination and installation for new elders and deacons is set for June 1.
- Jonathan Gaska, former Joy Community member and pastoral candidate under the care of RCLPC, has accepted a call to Trinity Presbyterian in Winston-Salem, NC.
- Next meeting: Monday, June 23, 2014, at 7:00 pm