

The Spirit

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

February 19, 2014

Acts 2

As we celebrate 175 years of our congregation's life, service and praise, I had to reflect on the second chapter of Acts, which gives the story of the first ever Christian worship gathering. The story begins with believers together in Jerusalem, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. I can almost hear them saying, "What now?"



It starts when Peter preaches a sermon! The gist of his message is in verses 14-36. What is so fascinating is the different levels of response.

First, the emotional response. There was an outward expression of inner struggle and questioning as a result of hearing the Word of God in Jesus. "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'" (2:37) It appears they were so moved that they were asking and looking for a way to participate, to be part of the community of believers, to share the story of Jesus, to live as He taught. Hearing the Word changes people.

Their second response: "Repent," said Peter...and they did. Their lives were changed forever; faith had crept into their hearts. Spiritually and dramatically, they were "born again." A moment of transformation had occurred and they surrendered their lives to God.

Then, a third response. Action, sign, symbol, acceptance. "So those who welcomed his message were baptized." (2:41)

Fourthly, there was an ongoing response, which involved all of them being together in community. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers." (2:42) "All who believed were together and had all things in common." (2:44)

Gathering, preaching, hearing, changing, worshiping, belonging, sharing. Exactly what has been happening right here for 175 years and continues on in Jesus's name.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Adult Education + Fellowship

With Adult Education on Sunday mornings at 10, you learn, and you socialize. You discover how Christian issues can impact daily secular life, and you make these discoveries in close association with some of the best people – RCLPC members and friends.

Adult Education continues to offer three learning tracks:

RE:Form – While shadowing the topics of the Confirmation class, explore what God has been trying to teach you. (Meets in Fellowship Hall)

Wired Word – Look at current news stories from a Christian perspective. (Meets in the Lounge)

The Third Option – Inquirers class continues. Pastor John explains what it means to be a Presbyterian. (Meets in John's office)

Lenten Season Third Option Preview: Starting on March 2nd for five Sundays, Pastor John will lead a Lenten Bible Study based upon the book of Mark.

Please consider joining us for learning and fellowship this Sunday or any other!

Someone you should meet...

She's thoughtful, forthright and inquisitive . . . she's Nancy Vazzano. Recently we had a great conversation about her background, her ideas, and her interests. She likes to exercise and manages to be at Healthbridge most mornings. Even though she is retired from her career as a stock broker, she still helps her husband, Martin, with his commercial real estate business. One of her passions is helping others, usually quietly behind the scenes, like doing taxes for AARP and needy seniors, volunteering at the Food Pantry, and purchasing Christmas gifts for those in need. Her secret ambition is to start a soup kitchen in Crystal Lake (she may need you to be a volunteer!). She is dedicated to helping others, and encourages others to do the same. Thank you, Nancy, for all that you do to enrich our community and our church family.

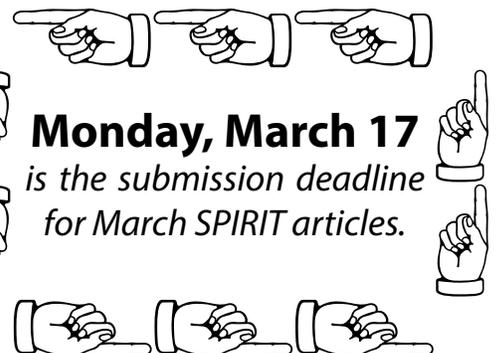
- Kathy Rabe

A Day in the Life of RCLPC



The 1950's were a time of prosperity with a soaring birth rate and blooming suburbs, but things weren't nearly so bright at RCLPC, as the church faced some of its bleakest moments. The Ladies' Aid Society, responsible for paying the oil

bill, wrote in the minutes of Jan. 1953: "An oil bill was turned in for \$74.89. We decided not to pay it just yet. We have \$59.93 in the treasury up to this date." Services were held downstairs in the winter to avoid heating the sanctuary.



Monday, March 17
is the submission deadline
for March SPIRIT articles.

Deacons' Sunday

Sunday, March 16th has been designated as Deacons' Sunday. It's an opportunity to raise awareness of the roles Deacons play in our Church family. A Deacon's work is focused to better serve the needs of the congregation through a number of activities that include but are not limited to: Contact with their congregational group, Caring card ministry, Greeters, Bread basket ministry, Fellowship activities, Memorials and funerals, Care and assistance, Mission, and Kitchen stocking.

Please join us in recognizing these special people on March 16th!

Communion Servers Needed

Is there anyone interested in serving communion? You must be a current or former deacon or elder. If you are currently a deacon or elder, or have served as one in the past, please contact Linda Peel at (847) 417-7971 or email me at linda.peel@oracle.com. Please include which service you prefer to attend.

CP&J Movie Night POSTPONED

The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team Movie Night Friday, February 21 has been re-scheduled to Friday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

We will present *A Place at the Table*, a documentary that investigates hunger in America and proposed solutions to the problem.

Hope to see you there for fellowship and thought-provoking discussion!

How can you give to the RCLPC Mission Fund without donating extra \$\$?

By using Scrip cards, that's how!

Just fill out an order form for Scrip cards from your favorite stores, and write a check for the amount ordered. You'll receive that same dollar value in cards that you can use to spend or give as gifts. When you shop with your Scrip cards, the store gives RCLPC a percentage of the sale...it's that easy!



Last year, RCLPC's Mission Fund earned over \$500 from church members like you buying Scrip cards and using them to do their regular shopping. Let's double that amount this year!

Scrip forms can be found on the bulletin board in the Connecting Link, and the next ordering deadline is this Sunday, February 23.

Please consider making a contribution without making a contribution!

Our 2013 Equal Exchange Coffee Impact

- Equal Exchange supporters purchased 5,419,907 pounds of coffee.
- That equals 216,796,280 cups of coffee.
- That's the annual harvest of 2,606 family farms.

To see the numbers with music and photos, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhZD8CzOk08&feature=youtu.be>.

Fair Trade...for all who love making a difference!



Pizza Fundraiser

Last month, RCLPC participated in a fundraiser where participants who took coupons to Lou Malnati's restaurant helped to raise \$402.19 for the Good Samaritan Ministries of Crystal Lake to help people in need.

Watch for the next fundraising event at a new location.

What a plan: good food, fellowship AND Good Samaritan benefits!

Christmas Food Truck

The Mission Outreach Ministry Team would like to thank the congregation for your generosity in hosting another successful Christmas Food Truck Distribution day. Many families received RCLPC hospitality with food boxes, some warm treats and friendly Christmas cheer. Thank you to all who have given generously towards the Food Distribution fund, and to all who came out to assist on that day. A special thank you to Walt and Linda Rosquist for organizing and directing the traffic and parking, David Woodruff for managing the food truck and the distribution and Raechel Sowa for putting together the registration and hospitality to the food box recipients. Another great team effort, RCLPC!

URGENT Need For Local Blood Donors

Due to the cancellation of blood drives because of recent severe weather impacting the area, local hospitals are running over 2000 units short.

Heartland Blood Center is pleading that potential donors go to one of their donor centers to donate blood and soon as it is physically possible for them to do so. The closest Heartland center is located in Crystal Lake at 6296 Northwest Highway (next to Hobby Lobby). Donors can call (815) 356-0768 to make an appointment, but the center accepts walk-in donors as well.

Blood donation saves lives! Please, help save a life today.

2014 RCLPC Rummage Sale...We Need YOU!

The rummage sales of 2012 and 2013 were grand successes that raised significant funds for RCLPC and provided opportunities for us not only to donate our unwanted items but share in fellowship as we sorted, displayed, and sold the goods.

Now it's time to find leaders and workers for this year's sale. It's an effort that requires many hands, and it's time to get the planning under way.

We will need people to sort, work on display areas, do pricing, pick up large donations, handle sales, do the advertising, keep track of expenditures, and clean up after it all. If you could help, in any capacity, please add your name to the sign-up list in the Connecting Link or let anyone on the Stewardship Team know of your interest.

After all, it's a way to make new friends, laugh a lot, and feel more connected to our church family and the community. Plus, the proceeds help RCLPC to continue God's work in the world.

- The RCLPC Stewardship Team

John Fankhauser, Linda Schweers, Patrick Kay, Linda Peel, Rick Thompson, Dorothy Vick, Lois Johnson, and Pastor John Dillon



Flower Dedications

Floral arrangements are a beautiful way to celebrate life's special moments or remember loved ones. Please pick a date on the 2014 Flower Dedication calendar in the Connecting Link for your dedicated Sunday, and let your bouquet beautify the sanctuary as well as commemorate your special day. (Cost: \$35.00, checks made out to RCLPC.) Lots of dates are still available!

Save the Date

**Jim Holder 3rd Annual Memorial Golf Outing
for RCLPC**

Thursday, August 7, 2014
Cary Country Club

Presbyterians for Earth Care Regional Conference Sept. 2-7, 2014

Alaska is in the forefront in how climate change is affecting our planet. Come join us this fall for an in-depth look at four signs of climate change: shrinking glaciers, vanishing sea ice, melting permafrost, and the effects on flora, fauna, and people.

Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care is excited to provide this opportunity for you to see firsthand how climate change is being felt and addressed in our beautiful state.



"How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all." - Psalm 104:24

For more information, look for a brochure on the Connecting Link bulletin board or visit pbyukon.org/events.html.

- Earth Care Team

New Hymnal Dedication

Hymn books are friends and companions on the Christian journey. They help guide us through the church year; they remind us that our faith stretches back over the years and outwards across many lands and cultures. They often help us express our joys, sorrows and even doubts in words and music in a way that reaches deep into our souls. This is true as we sing week by week, but perhaps especially true amidst significant events like baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The blue Presbyterian hymnal was introduced in 1990, and over the past 20+ years has served us well. With gratitude and thanks we give honor to its use, and retire it with much love.

Those books which carry a named dedication plate will be returned to the individual or family of origin with our deepest gratitude. Any other member who wishes to keep a copy is asked to contact Bill Pittenger or the church office, and a donation of \$5 per copy is suggested to support our music ministry.

Dedicated to the service of God, as an aid to our faith and to enrich our worship, we are introducing the new Presbyterian hymnal, "Glory to God." This extensive collection contains many wonderful new and classic hymns, and will be a fresh and treasure-filled companion and guide to our ongoing worship.

The Worship team will be adding new dedication book plates, in due course, and envelopes are available in the pews for any who still wish to make donations to either purchase more hymnal copies or for the ongoing work of our music ministry.

Want to Get the Word Out for your Next Event?

Just follow these guidelines to get the most media coverage possible from your friendly RCLPC staff and volunteers:

- 1. Plan ahead.** Add your event date to the calendar. This lets the congregation and the community know what's coming up.
- 2. Start advertising early** in the bulletin announcements, The Spirit and/or the RCLPC website.
- 3. When submitting an article, specify** where you'd like to see it published: bulletin announcements, The Spirit and/or RCLPC website.
- 4. Send it to the office (office@rclpc.org) and include:**
 - The title
 - Exact, edited text (or PDF, if that's what you'd like published)
 - How long you'd like it to run (if there's no expiration date already stated)

Then, just leave the rest to us!

Thanks,

Amy (bulletin announcements, articles due to the office by noon on Wednesdays)

Sarah (The Spirit, deadlines are on the calendar)

Kim (RCLPC website)

Special Events for Lent

Ash Wednesday Taize Service 7:00 p.m.

Soup and Scripture for Lent Join us on Wednesday nights during Lent for a soup dinner and an adult Bible study. For 5 weeks, starting on March 12th, we will gather for dinner followed by a study led by Matthew Brown entitled Give Up Something Bad for Lent: A Lenten Study for Adults. During Lent, many Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice but it is often something good like chocolate or ice cream. This study will challenge you to take this discipline one step further, to give up something we are better off not doing.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., and the study starts at 6 p.m. Child supervision will be provided during the study. For children who are in choir, snacks and supervision will be provided afterwards.

If you are interested, please sign up in the Connecting Link so we know how many to expect for dinner. If you have any questions, talk to Matt Brown. Hope to see you there!

Lenten Devotions Would you like to receive regular short Lenten Devotional emails? Several people subscribed to get Advent devotions, and I am planning to repeat it for Lent. Please send a request to be included to johnd@rclpc.org.



Home of the Sparrow Fundraiser

Home of the Sparrow presents *Who Hijacked My Fairy Tale?*, a program about finding the balance between the life you envisioned and the life you got! Join award-winning comedian, storyteller, and author Kelly Swanson for an afternoon celebrating women with lunch and laughter as Kelly shows how to find joy in the midst of chaos.

Friday, March 7, 2014, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at D'Andrea Banquets in Crystal Lake. Tickets \$40. Register at www.HOSparrow.org or 815.271.5444 x40. Please RSVP by Mon., Feb. 24.

A Note from the Office

Next time you need to put up a notice in church, please use sticky tabs instead of tape. They're easy to use, and most importantly, they're easy to remove. There is a supply in the office supply cabinet and also in the office desk.

Please feel free to help yourself!

Care for Children Overseas

The Mission Outreach Team wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this RCLPC mission. In a show of great compassion and generosity, RCLPC members have committed to supporting 7 children! If you'd still like to contribute, it's not too late-- the form is included at the end of this issue of the Spirit.

RCLPC Youth Ministry News

Youth Group Update

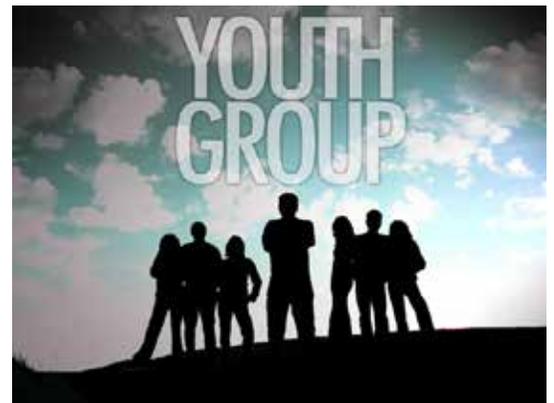
Thank you to all who participated and supported the high school youth group pancake breakfast. All of the donations will go towards our summer mission trip to Irvine, Kentucky. Look for more fundraisers in the future to help send our kids on the mission trip.

Our middle school youth group recently had our winter retreat and we had a blast. We learned about each member of the Trinity and had lots of fun learning about and praising God. Our spring lock-in is coming up on April 4-5, which is always a favorite!

Youth Ministry Parent Meeting

On Sunday, March 2nd, from 12-1, there will be a parent meeting. There will be discussions about how the youth ministries at RCLPC are going, and how they could be improved. We will also discuss what next year will look like and get parent feedback on that. Hope to see you there!

- Matt Brown



Request for Candidate Recommendations

The Nominating Committee requests candidate recommendations from the congregation for Elder, Deacon, Auditor, Endowment Group and Nominating Committee. Each member of the congregation is invited to submit a maximum of three recommendations for open positions. These recommendations shall not be recognized as votes, nor tallied, and are extended only to establish a list of possible nominees. These recommendations, plus recommendations from the members of the Committee, shall be considered in the candidate selection process.

The ministry of Ruling Elder (session) requires persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated leadership skills and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling Elders are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. They exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. Members of session serve one of the following teams: Administration, Education, Worship, Stewardship, Community Outreach, Finance and 1 member acts as a liaison to the Deacon Mission Team. The term of office is three years.

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion and sound judgement should be chosen for this ministry. Deacons serve a three-year term on either the congregational care team (welcoming, caring, and fellowship) or the mission team. All deacons lead a family group.

Members of the Audit Committee annually conduct an audit of the Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church's financial funds, records and reports, and the insurance policies. Every three years the Audit Committee conducts an audit of the legal records (By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, etc.) of the church. The ministry of Auditor is a three year term.

The ministry of Nominating Committee is served by 2 ruling elders who are appointed by Session, 1 active Deacon elected by the Deacon Board, and 4 members-at-large who have been elected by the Congregation. The Nominating Committee selects candidates for the positions of elder, deacon, members of the next nominating committee and audit committee. Also, when required, the Nominating Committee will select candidates for a pastoral search committee.

Lastly, the ministry of Endowment Group is seeking a candidate for the class of 2017. The J.C. Button Endowment Foundation was created by the RCLPC session for the purpose of providing members and friends of the church the opportunity to make charitable contributions for the long term financial support of the church, its programs, ministries, and as a living memorial. Responsibilities include accepting gifts in accordance with the J.C. Button Endowment Foundation, investing the assets, making financial reports, marketing the foundation, and providing educational opportunities to the congregation regarding the value of estate planning and wills. Please prayerfully consider whom you might recommend for these positions. You may e-mail suggestions to Sue Neuschel, moderator of the 2014 Nominating committee, at Sueneuschel@att.net or call (815) 356-7041 or Al Popp, at skip3917@sbcglobal.net or (815) 459-6274 by March 2nd, 2014.

**Mission Outreach Ministry
Care for Children Overseas
Student Sponsorship Program**

Our church began providing financial support for three young women at Fairhaven School in Alexandria, Egypt, in 2009. Fairhaven is the special school for youth with disabilities that was started by our sister church, El Saray. Then in 2011 we joined with Colegio Americano in Columbia to begin sponsoring children in their Presbyterian School.

The Mission Outreach Ministry wishes to continue to care for children overseas through our student sponsorship program with Fairhaven in Egypt and Colegio Americano in Colombia so that all the children can continue to learn and grow with the compassion and support of their teachers and staff. Our goal is to continue to sponsor the three students at **Fairhaven: Sara, Randa and Safaa**, and the four student s at **Colegio Americano: Alvaro, Daniel, Wendy and Andres**.

Monthly tuition, room and board cost per student is approximately \$240 for the eleven-month school year at Fairhaven and \$56 per month tuition cost for the ten-month school year at Colegio Americano. This is the only time we will come to the congregation this year to ask for your financial support in sponsoring these young people.

Thank you for helping us reach out in love and support to these young people in need at Fairhaven and Colegio Americano.

Mission Outreach Ministry Team

**Mission Outreach Ministry
Care for Children Overseas
Student Sponsorship Program**

Name _____

I (We) will support financially **Care for Children Overseas** through:

____ One-Time contribution of \$ _____

____ Monthly contribution of \$ _____

____ Quarterly contribution of \$ _____

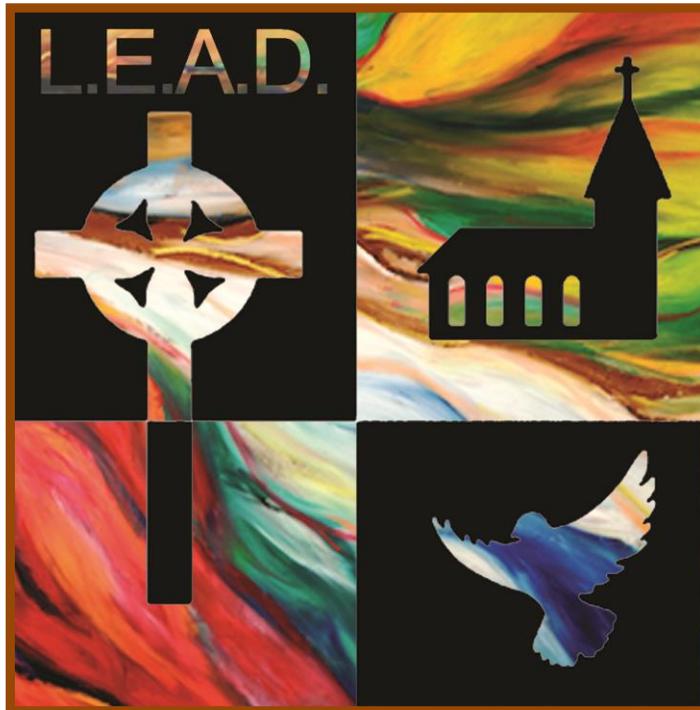
Contributions will go into the general "*Care for Children Overseas*" fund, unless you specify a preference.

Please make checks payable to RCLPC and designate **student sponsorship** in the memo line. The complete form can be turned in to the church office.

THANK YOU!

LEAD. 2014

Leadership, Education and Development for the *Whole Church*



Peacemakers All: Generosity of Spirit in a Time of Fear

Ruling Elder Rick Ufford-Chase

Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship; Co-Director of Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY; and Moderator of the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Saturday March 1, 2014 • 8am - 3pm

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

367 Spring Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126 T. 630-834-7750

Questions? 630.471.4643 or vancamps@earthlink.net