

The SPIRIT

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

April 17, 2013

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Congregational Meeting Called May 5, 2013 at 10:05am

Session has called a Congregational meeting for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons.

Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia

We will be observing Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia on April 28-29. The Reverend Sarah Henken will preach at both

services on Sunday, April 28, and will be available for conversation between services. Sarah was appointed regional liaison for the Andean region in July 2010, continuing a journey of mission service in Latin



America. She has previously served as a Young Adult Volunteer in Uruguay and as coordinator of the Colombia Accompaniment Program, where she was inspired by the possibilities for the church to be a prophetic witness to Christ's peace. Based in Bolivia, Sarah supports partner ministries, implements regional strategies, and strengthens the work of mission personnel by providing guidance and assistance. Sarah also facilitates the work of grassroots Presbyterians from the United States who are directly involved in mission in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela.

There are 2 action opportunities on the Compassion, Peace and Justice table in the Connecting Link:

***Please stop by to sign a petition to Secretary of State, John Kerry, calling on the United States to work with Colombian officials to ensure that peace negotiations now taking place between the government and the largest guerrilla group, the FARC, include truth, justice, and reparations. It also asks that the peace process take into account those millions of Colombians caught in the middle of the conflict.*

***Cut out a peace dove and write a message of peace and justice on the wings. These doves will be given to our members of Congress on Monday.*

The 21st Annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Saturday, May 11th

You can leave your donation of non-perishable (non-glass) food items in a bag at your mailbox. It'll be picked up on Saturday morning!! Tell your neighbors and friends. This drive really helps the Crystal Lake Food Pantry and you don't have to lug it in your car and deliver it. It's a win-win community service effort!

All donated food will be transported to the Algonquin Township Building (3702 Rte 14 in CL) on the afternoon of Saturday, May 11th. At that time we hope for many hands to help lighten the load of sorting and boxing the food. If you'd like to volunteer, please stop by around 1:30pm (in the back building) to be part of the action.

We couldn't do it without you. The Crystal Lake Food Pantry is so very grateful for your donations, time and talents. Your efforts help so many in our community.

Thank You!



Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day

"whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me" ~ Matthew 18:5

Dear Parents and Students:

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall we will be gathering to honor and thank our Sunday school teachers for their time and talents in the spiritual growth of our children.

We are planning an old fashioned ice cream social and as a way of saying thanks we are asking parents and students to help with this event. The education team will provide the ice cream and beverages. We are asking each classroom to help by donating the following:

Preschool/Kindergarten: sprinkles, chocolate chips, M&Ms, etc.

1st, 2nd & 3rd grade: sprinkles, chocolate chips, M&Ms, etc.

4th & 5th grade: various syrup flavors —
chocolate, butterscotch, etc., whipped cream

6th, 7th, & 8th grade: cookies and brownies

9th & 10th grade: cookies and brownies



Please send an email to Karen Nelson @ nelsvenska55@sbcglobal.net to advise as to what you will be able to donate so that we know we will have enough of everything.

This will be our last day of children's Sunday school until the fall. Please bring your children to their usual classroom by 10:00 and their teachers will bring them to Fellowship Hall. There will be no children's Sunday school offered this summer, but we encourage families to worship together along with being a part of VBS that is scheduled for June 24 - 27.

We hope you will consider to be a part of this special event in honoring and thanking our Sunday school teachers. Donations can be dropped off in the kitchen before or by 9:40am on Sunday, May 19th. Thank you.

Sincerely, RCLPC Education Team

From the Endowment Group

On Saturday, April 27, Steve Keizer, our representative from the Presbyterian Foundation, will be with us. He will talk about estate planning and the various ways of accomplishing that. The meeting starts at 10AM in the sanctuary and there will be plenty of time for questions. Come and learn about wills, trusts, and other methods of estate planning.

A Huge THANK YOU!

The Easter basket mission project for the families of Home of the Sparrow was a huge success thanks to all of the very generous donations from RCLPC.

Thanks also to the children on Palm Sunday helping to stuff all the eggs. I am so excited to report that we were able to fill 61 Easter baskets that were filled with lots of goodies and toys to help make a joy filled Easter for the families of Home of the Sparrow. In addition to the baskets we were able to give each mother two \$10 gift cards to either Wal-Mart or Target and each teen was able to receive a subway gift card. Once again, I am blessed to be part of such a compassionate and giving church. Thank you.

Karen Nelson



Nominees for Elders for Elders Class of 2016

Cindy Theobald can be found each Sunday leading the *Wired Word* with her husband David whom she married in June 2006. She can also be found helping with worship as a Power Point presenter, usher or greeter. Cindy works as an account manager for a logistics company and has two children: Laura Harter (age 23) and Mark Harter (age 15) from her first marriage. Cindy was raised on a working farm in Indiana and still has a love of gardening which she pursues with a small prairie garden in their back yard. Cindy attended several churches as a child and was drawn to RCLPC when Emily Floyd became friends with her daughter through the Northwest Community Choir. Subsequently, she and her family visited our church and were attracted by the band in the contemporary service and the youth program. Cindy's caring for RCLPC and the community are evident in her hopes and dreams. She describes her inspiration and commitment with these words: "...the church is not just the place you attend worship; ...it can and should be a total community providing support, love, friendship, education and more for its members. From families with small children to youth, college students, older adults and retirees, we can truly be a community or extended family in our local area and extending into the world."

Al Popp was raised in Arlington Heights where he attended the Presbyterian USA church and was active in the youth events. He married a Mount Prospect girl, Linda, 49 years ago and they settled in the Crystal Lake area. They have been members of RCLPC ever since. In addition to raising their own two sons, David and Chris, Al has a "little brother" named Josh through the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Although recently retired from his career in computer systems, Al has maintained his long and multifaceted work for our church community. The list is impressive: he has served as music director, treasurer, trustee, and deacon in addition to many committees (worship and music, finance, nominating, building and grounds, renovation and organ). Currently, he anchors the contemporary service with his bass guitar, teaches Sunday school, volunteers for church projects and documents our congregation's life with candid photographs. He brings wit, wisdom and warmth to all that he does. Al says that as a church "we need to welcome more young families into our multi-age congregation. Doing so will promote growth and expansion as God provides. I look forward with God's guidance to serve as your elder, and help RCLPC advance our spiritual presence in the lives of a changing greater community."

Darryl Bessant and **Nancy Koenig** are nominated for a second term as elders.

Nominees for Deacons Class of 2016

Cindy Borre Nichols grew up in Richmond, Il and was raised Lutheran. Ten years ago she moved to Crystal Lake and started looking for a church home. A friend brought her to RCLPC and she immediately felt a connection to the message, the people, and the culture. She has been a liturgist, a greeter, a Sunday School teacher and a confirmation mentor. She is a sales manager for Intermatic Inc., a manufacturer of energy management products, and travels frequently. She lives with her husband Andy in Lake in the Hills and between them they have four children: 2 girls and 2 boys ages 27, 22, 18, and 15. Her hopes and dreams for RCLPC is to grow as an inclusive church home with active and expanding opportunities for youth.

Carol Hoefler has been a long-time member of RCLPC. She is married to her husband Ted and has two older children. Carol lives in Crystal Lake and is a local realtor.

Marge Stewart, **Joan Jensema** and **Karen Leuchtmann** are nominated for a second term as elders.

(continued)

Nominating Committee Nominees Class of 2016

David Steele has been very involved in RCLPC for over 30 years. He and his wife, Deb, joined the church in 1980 and their two children Brad and Beth have been raised at RCLPC. David's job is with Nelson Westberg, an agent for Atlas Van Lines. He has served as a trustee, elder, deacon and member of the nominating committee, the pastor nominating committee, the audit committee and as a youth group leader, confirmation teacher. He has made himself available to do some of the heavy lifting for the Cookie Walk events and the rummage sale. Finally, he has been a long term member of the choir. David is known for his generosity and wit in our church community. His goal for the church is to gather new members, improve our facilities and become more involved in the community.

Frank Lopuszynski came to us by way of Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. His religious background was Roman Catholic. He and his wife Cynthia have two children Nicholas and Katie and two grandchildren. Frank retired from Sears Holding after 33 years and currently works for Crystal Lake District 155 supervising study hall at Central High School. They have been members of RCLPC for almost 20 years. Frank has been involved in RCLPC as an elder, usher, liturgist, organizer of Café dinners and leader of the Men's group. His warmth and genuineness are assets to our congregation. His hope is that RCLPC continues to be a caring and friendly growing church.

Endowment Committee Nominee Class of 2016

John Manchester is a life-long Presbyterian who grew up in Deerfield, IL and attended the college of Wooster in Ohio which is Presbyterian related. He and his wife Kathleen have been married for over 25 years and have no children. He is close to his mother, father-in-law and 5 nieces and nephews. Although currently unemployed, John worked in the IT field for twenty-five years with a large non-profit social service agency that cared for the developmentally disabled. His career has given him extensive experience in fundraising and grants. In the past, he has been involved in RCLPC's stewardship efforts and he and Kathleen have provided music for worship on a number of occasions. His goal for RCLPC is to see the church grow as a faith community and increase its membership and diversity.

Audit Committee Nominee Class of 2016

Dan Schweers and his wife Linda have been members of RCLPC for nearly 10 years. He is a natural leader who has served as elder at our church and other Presbyterian churches in the past. Dan recently retired from District 59 where he was the Superintendent. He now teaches part-time at North Park University in Chicago. He was baptized Roman Catholic but joined the Presbyterian church as a young child. He and his wife Linda have 3 grown children, Ben, Sarah and Rebeccah, plus 2 granddaughters Ava and Lily. His hope for RCLPC is that we continue to do God's work in the world, wherever He leads.

Financial Secretary Nominee

Laurie Jensen has accepted the position as financial secretary.

It's Spring Cleaning Time
WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO YOUR PURGE!

RUMMAGE SALE at the CHURCH

Friday AND Saturday
May 3 and 4 from 8 to 3

WE NEED.... GENTLY USED, CLEAN & WORKING
CLOTHES, KIDS CLOTHES, SHOES, ACCESSORIES, TOYS, FURNITURE,
HOME DÉCOR ITEMS, COLLECTABLES, BOOKS, CDs, DVDs, WORKING
ELECTRONICS, TOOLS, KITCHEN ITEMS, CRAFT ITEMS, SPORTS EQUIP-
MENT, LINENS, PLANTS, APPLIANCES, GARDEN SUPPLIES.....

BRING ITEMS TO FELLOWSHIP HALL and tell your friends too!

LARGE ITEM PICK UP AVAILABLE – details below

***WE NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL PRICE AND SET UP THE SALE AND
WORK THE SALE ON MAY 3rd and 4th.**

Sign up in Connecting Link FOR TIMES beginning next week

***WE NEED SHOPPING BAGS AND HANGERS**

DROP OFF IN DESIGNATED AREAS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Getting Rid of All Your Unwanted Items is a Win-Win for You AND the CHURCH
(proceeds will benefit our ongoing ministries and
all donations will receive a tax deductible receipt)

**ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE LARGE LABELED AREA OF
FELLOWSHIP HALL ANYTIME. LARGE ITEM (furniture etc) PICK-UP
IS AVAILABLE FOR SATURDAY APRIL 27TH**

(Contact DEB OR DAVE STEELE OR JODIE LEFEVRE to get on the list)

In the interest of fairness, there will be **no pre-sales or “holds”** for any donated
items this year. **HOWEVER**, if **you are willing** to volunteer for 6 or more hours to
help with the sale in any way, we will be holding a rehearsal pre-sale for volunteers
on Thursday evening, May 2nd from 6 to 8pm.

**YOU ARE A FABULOUS CONGREGATION AND WE ARE VERY EXCITED
ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER**

IN THIS EFFORT TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH!

THANK YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN!

Questions? Contact Deb Steele, Jodie LeFevre, Kathy Rabe or Lori Thompson
by email or phone

Check Your Calendars for VBS

VBS is quickly approaching and we need lots more volunteers for VBS this summer. This is an awesome opportunity to share the love of Christ with our youngest members, so please check your calendars and see if you can volunteer in any way. VBS is running from Monday, June 24 to Thursday, June 27. We not only need people during the week, but before and after - there are lots of ways to help! It takes the entire church to make this important mission happen. And it takes all sorts of people - short, tall, loud, quiet, young, old, singers, artists, scientists... you name it, we want it! There is a signup sheet in the connecting link with all of our open positions, please take a look and see what position would be a good fit for you! Any questions, please contact Andrea Pracht at 815-529-6954. Thanks so much!

