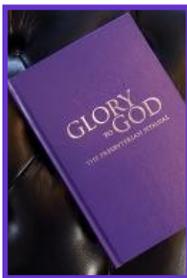


# The SPIRIT

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church  
December 18, 2013

## Glory to God Hymnal Update

Several months ago the worship committee announced the decision, approved by the session, to purchase the new Presbyterian hymnal with a goal of purchasing one hundred fifty copies. These are enough to fill the pew racks and support the choir. The response has been wonderful with single and multiple copy donations.



TA-DA!! We are two thirds of the way to our goal. Thank you to all who have contributed to purchasing this hymnal. Recently, I attended a one-day seminar introducing the new hymnal and am very impressed with the contents and layout for supporting and enhancing our worship.

Our current hymnal was printed in 1990. A new hymnal is produced roughly every generation—about every 20-30 years. This allows us to continue to include new music, to widen our perspective as our Christian family widens, and to remember what we liked about some of those oldies but goodies. The *Glory to God* hymnal has been very carefully compiled so that it contains many of the old favorites that weren't in the blue hymnal (It Is Well With My Soul, Rock of Ages), many new songs from writers like John Bell and Marty Haugen (*The Summons, Gather Us In*), some of the praise music that fits our theological tradition, and music from the church around the world.

The current hymnal contains 600 hymns whereas the new hymnal contains eight hundred fifty three. If you haven't already or would like to donate an additional hymnal, please fill out one of the 'Glory To God' envelopes found in the pew racks and place it in the offering.

CHALLENGE - I am very excited about this new hymnal and will match one for one for each new donation up to our goal of one hundred fifty.

Thanks be to God.  
Bill Pittenger, the worship committee



## THANK YOU!!

The Home of the Sparrow staff was so excited to receive 24 place settings of dishes from our church through the Rachel Ray stamp program. THANK YOU all for all your wonderful contributions that made this all possible. Through our efforts, we have made a better Christmas for many clients of Home of the Sparrow.



## Christmas Eve Services:

4:00pm

*Family-Friendly  
Worship*

6:00pm

*Christmas Unplugged*

7:30 & 9:30pm

*Traditional Services*

# Children's Sunday School – More Than a Classroom

On any given Sunday during the start of the education hour the education wing is a buzz with teachers warmly greeting the children and the children eager to find out what they will be learning and sharing their weekly events. Sunday school is not only a time of learning about the bible and God's love for us, but it is also a time of fellowship for the children. As they are on their faith journey they start to build friendships with their peers at church and possibly make friendships for life. Parents have their reasons why they want their children to attend Sunday school, but we thought we would ask the children a few questions about why they attend Sunday school. Here are a few of their responses:

## \* QUESTIONS ASKED

1. Favorite part of Sunday school?
2. Why do you come to Sunday school?
3. Things you have learned?
4. What else would you like to learn?

## \* PRESCHOOL - FIFTH GRADE ANSWERS:

1. Coloring, snacks, crafts.
2. Learn about Jesus, to pray to the Lord, playing games, and fun.
3. Listen to God, God made us, God is always with you, God is everywhere and people from the Bible.
4. Is God a spirit and is God a boy or a girl?

## \* TWEENS AND TEENS ANSWERS:

1. Snacks, candy, fun, talking as a group and sharing with others.
2. Family requires it, want to attend, teachers, have fun, to learn about bible and activities.
3. A lot, stories from the bible, his light always shines through the darkness and how the bible relates with our day to day lives.
4. The world before and up to the preparation of Jesus, how religion has affected all wars, in depth study of books of the bible and the afterlife.

## COMING IN 2014:

The younger children will be introduced to "Traveling Jesus" and it is designed to be a fun way for kids, families and the whole congregation to connect as a community of faith. Bible bowl starts in January. The middle school and high school classes will be discussing Parables and the book of Ephesians. The teachers look forward to the new year and being able to help nurture the children on their faith journey! Karen Nelson



## Children's Sunday School Holiday Schedule

In observance of Christmas and New Years, there will be no classes on December 22nd and December 29th. Classes will resume on January 5, 2014.

Also, as a courtesy to their fellow classmates and teachers, please remind children that any handheld electronic devices should be turned off during the Sunday school hour and younger children should leave any devices with their parents until Sunday school is over. Thank you.

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and cards during my heart surgery and recovery. It was so wonderful to know that I was enveloped in that love and care! My speedy recovery is a testimony to the power of those prayers!!!

Gratefully, Carol Hoefler



*Keynote Speaker:  
Imam Plemon T. El-Amin*

## Atlanta Interfaith Leader to Speak at MLK Prayer Breakfast January 20, 7:30am

Plemon El-Amin, Imam Emeritus of the Atlanta Masjid of El-Islam, will give the keynote address for the Fifth Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The breakfast will be held at D'Andrea's Banquets, 4419 Route 14, Crystal Lake, on Monday, January 20, beginning at 7:30am. The program will include the reading of a winning essay by a local middle school student on the theme, "My Dream for the World". In addition there will be prayers from various faith traditions. Tickets are available in the church office: \$20 for adults and \$15 for students.

El-Amin is the Imam Emeritus of the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, one of the largest and most progressive Mosques in the United States. He is the former Director of the Clara Mohammed Elementary School and W. Deen Mohammed School of Atlanta. Imam El-Amin has traveled the nation and the world, representing the concerns and interests of Muslim Americans and Interfaith adherents in such places as Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Denmark, England, Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Malaysia and South Africa.

Imam Plemon El-Amin serves on various religious and civic councils, including the Boards of the Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, the Atlanta Majlis Ash Shura, the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, the World Pilgrims, and the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Department. As part of the World Pilgrims, he has led ten Pilgrimages with over 300 Christians, Jews and Muslims together through the religious and cultural landscapes of Turkey, Morocco, Spain, Jerusalem, Palestine, Greece and Jordan.

### Coffee and Cookies for Fellowship Hour

Please volunteer to make coffee and bring cookies to share during the Fellowship Hour on Sundays at 10am in Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up sheet near the coffee. Please sign up so we have this warm and welcoming gift of coffee and cookies for our members and visitors. Thanks so much for sharing this gift of hospitality.

### Stewardship Pledge Card Request

Recently we dedicated our pledges during worship. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, we invite you to prayerfully consider your response to God's great generosity in our lives. You can return your 2014 Stewardship Pledge Card in any of these ways:

- \* Mail your Pledge Card to RCLPC or place it in the offering plate. Contact the office if you need another card.
- \* Complete Pledge Card online at [rclpc.org](http://rclpc.org). Click on "Pledge Now".

### Tis the Season to Be Giving

The end of the year is a wonderful time to be gift giving and a wonderful way to give a gift to RCLPC, either to the church general fund or to the J. C. BUTTON Endowment Fund, is to do a direct rollover from a Traditional IRA. If you are 70 1/2 and meet other qualifications, you can instruct the trustee of your IRA to send money to RCLPC. If you do it right, it will not have to be reported as income when you do your taxes. Be sure you designate whether it is for the Endowment Fund or the church general fund. Contact your tax or financial advisor to be sure this benefit is available to you and what the rules are. This needs to be done by 12/31/2013. If you do not qualify for the IRA transfer, the end of the year is a good time to increase your gift to the church, either for the church's immediate needs or for the long-term stability of the church and the ability to augment our ministries. Again, this needs to be done by 12/31/2013. ~ Dick Virkus

## Bacon or Sausage, Milk or Juice? Ohhhh the Decisions One Must Make!

The Senior High Youth group has been very busy so far. It has been a roller coaster ride with golf, hiking, roller coasters, lock-ins, movies, an upcoming mission event of loading cars with food and gifts for those in need, and of course, Christian sharing, but..... The next big event for us is our

annual pancake breakfast  
on the 26th of January.

We will be serving a full breakfast as our largest fundraiser. Your generosity will go towards our mission trip to Irvine, Kentucky. We will be making much needed repairs to the homes of families living in the Appalachian area. Our senior high youth group appreciates your support as we embark on the important ministry of showing Gods love one repair at a time.



### Session Highlights December 16, 2013

- The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 10:00am. Business to be transacted: presentation and approval of the annual report, the Pastor's terms of call, and the JC Button Foundation Bylaws revisions.
- The report of the 2012 Audit Committee was approved.
- The proposed 2014 budget was reviewed.
- To date, 98 pledges toward the 2014 budget have been received.
- Blackhawk Presbytery's Mission Strategies Resource Board sent the fossil fuel divestment overture to the full Presbytery with recommendation for concurrence.
- 100 of the new hymnals have been received; purchase of an additional 50 is planned.
- Furnace and blower malfunctions in the Connecting Link area are awaiting new parts.
- 24 place settings of dishes obtained from the grocery store stamps were delivered to Home of the Sparrow. Thanks to Kathy Rabe for organizing this effort.
- Fifteen youth have signed up for the mission trip to Kentucky next summer.
- Home communion has been offered to eight shut-ins.
- Amalie Grace Cameron will be baptized on January 12 at 11a. Her parents are Patrick and Colleen.
- The People in Need Forum is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2014, at McHenry County College.
- Next meeting: Monday, January 20, 2014, at 7:00 pm