

# The SPIRIT

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

January 9, 2013

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



## Annual Congregational Meeting Called

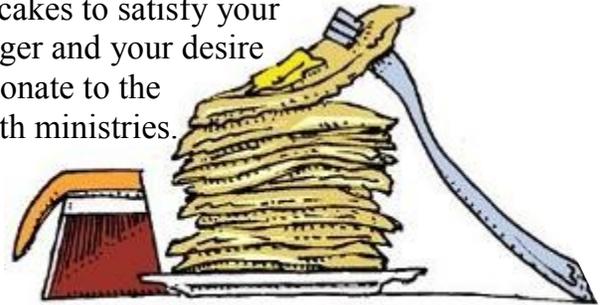
Session has called the annual congregational meeting for **Sunday, January 27, 2013, at 10:00am**. The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive the annual reports from the Pastor, the Session and Deacon Boards, the teams, and the Treasurer. The 2013 annual budget will be reviewed and terms of call for the pastoral staff approved.

### Worship Schedule Change:

Worship times for January 27 will be at 9 and 11am.

## Pancake Time!

Come to church hungry on January 27th, because our youth group will be cooking up pancakes to satisfy your hunger and your desire to donate to the youth ministries.



## Pancake Breakfast

## The "W" (Women's Group) to Resume in 2013

### "Praying in Color"

Saturday, January 19th, 9 – 11am

We will gather in Fellowship Hall and enjoy a light brunch together before being led by our own Laura Gilmore. Laura found "Praying in Color" by Grace five years ago. She has practiced this wonderful, simple connection with God and has gone on to inspire our own confirmands to a more meaningful relationship. She will lead us into this New Year as we gather with our best intentions, in the presence of God in a room filled with Love! It will be FUN and COLORFUL!

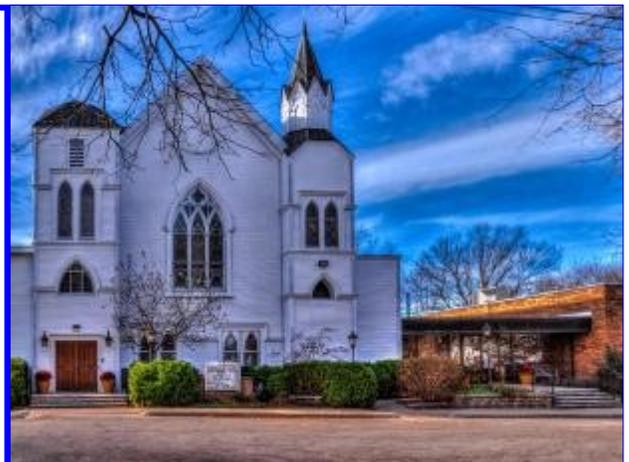
SIGN UP today in the connecting link AND feel free to BRING A FRIEND.

## RCLPC 2013 Photo Wall Calendar

Featuring:

- ◆ Fantastic Pictures of the RCLPC Family and Church
- ◆ The Gospel lesson for every Sunday
- ◆ Monthly Mystery Box
- ◆ Lifts up the way we reach out to the community
- ◆ **And a fun way to support the Deacon Fund**

Every RCLPC family and friend should have one! A wonderful gift! Only \$19.95 and if you want, you can donate the nickel to this great cause. Please see Chris Pickett.



# Session Highlights

December 17, 2012

- ◆ Our gratitude goes to Rick Pohl for serving as Financial Secretary for the last several years. He has filled a behind-the-scenes role that is vital to our financial record-keeping. Nominating is actively seeking someone to fill this vital role.
- ◆ An additional \$2000 has been sent to the Presbytery Mission fund, joyfully replacing the reduction we had to make at the beginning of the year. These dollars support our mission grants to congregations, new church development and many other projects by Blackhawk Presbytery.
- ◆ On February 17, 2013, the new worship schedule takes effect with services at 9am and 11am, and Christian education and fellowship at 10am. More details from Session to be released soon.
- ◆ The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team is organizing our participation in a nation-wide PC (USA) peace discernment process on Sunday, March 3, from 12 - 4:30pm. The congregation will be invited to participate.
- ◆ On February 2, 2013, the Session and representatives of the youth leadership and youth visioning team will meet to discuss future directions for youth ministry.
- ◆ The next confirmation class will begin in the fall of 2013.
- ◆ The next Session meeting will be held on January 14, 2013.

## Thank You to the Church from Your Mission Outreach Ministry Team

Our Holiday Meal distribution on December 20 made Christmas dinner brighter for more than 150 families. Your generous donations to buy portions of, or entire, holiday meals exceeded our goal. Our Sunday School classes responded to the need and were also generous contributors. Thanks to all of you, young and not so young, for your financial support of this mission ministry. Thanks go also to the many volunteers, again young and older, for the hours spent at church offering Christian hospitality to our guests while they waited for the food truck. We had many volunteers who welcomed the guests as they arrived and again as they entered the church, served as table hosts, provided food, and offered fellowship. Thanks especially to Linda and Walt Rosquist for their direction in organizing the parking of over 100 cars around our church, to Dave Woodruff for his experience and leadership in directing the Holiday Meal distribution, to Dave Palmer for once again adding that special Christmas cheer in Fellowship Hall as a very believable Santa Claus, and to Raechel Sowa for her many hours planning and assuring our guests of a special RCLPC welcoming they will never forget. Thanks to you all for your incredible efforts in this mission project. Mission Outreach Ministry Team



## Reusing Greeting Cards

When you are through enjoying your Christmas cards (or any occasion cards), they can be reused at St. Jude's Ranch for Children. And no rush -- this can happen in July as well as January. A few guidelines to follow:

- ◆ No Hallmark cards
- ◆ No American Greeting cards
- ◆ No Disney cards
- ◆ No writing on the reverse side of card front

Cut off the right side of the card and recycle it; St. Jude's only wants the pretty fronts.

Package your cards in boxes or mailing envelopes, then send them along at any time during the year to:

St. Jude's Ranch for Children P.O. Box 60100  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006

~ Earth Care Team

## Please Mark Your Calendars for Food Pantry Work Days in 2013:

Wednesday	January 23
Monday	February 18
Wednesday	March 20
Monday	April 22
Wednesday	May 22
Monday	June 24
Wednesday	July 24
Monday	August 26
Wednesday	September 25
Monday	October 28
Wednesday	November 27 <i>(day before Thanksgiving)</i>
Monday	December 30

## Food Truck Update Sunday School Contest Winners

Thank you to all of the Sunday School Students that participated in the Stuff the Truck campaign. Not only did you "Stuff the Truck" but you did so on a grand scale. Over the 4 week period the Sunday School classrooms raised \$212.81! That is a ton of green beans and many turkeys. I can assure you that you left a heart print with many people. As promised the classroom that raised the most will receive breakfast on Feb. 3, 2013. The contest was close but in the last week the Middle School edged out the 4th/5th classroom to take the prize. Congratulations and I will see you on the 3rd of February. Mr. Nelson will share the details with you. Thank you. ~ Raechel Sowa

## Colegio Americano in Colombia

RCLPC has sponsored students at the Presbyterian Church's Colegio Americano in Apartado, Colombia, for the past several years. This past summer we had a video conference call with the students, parents and teachers at the Colegio. There is a short video of the students on Facebook. Type "Colegio Americano de Apartado" in the search box. You will be taken to the page for Leonardo Vargas which is also used by the school. Scroll down to see the video. For more information contact Ann Legg, [aglegg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aglegg@sbcglobal.net).

## Adult Literacy Program of McHenry County College

Adult Volunteer Literacy orientation and training will be offered at MCC on various times and days from late January through April. Look for information in the Connecting Link, or contact Marie Day at (815) 455-8542 or [mday@mchenry.edu](mailto:mday@mchenry.edu) if you're interested in learning more. It's a way to make a difference for eager adult students who live in McHenry County's towns and neighborhoods.

## 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 intended only to establish a list of possible nominees. These recommendations, plus recommendations from 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 and Community Outreach, Finance and 1 member acts as a liaison to the Deacon Mission Team. The term of office is 3 years.

The ministry of **Deacon** as set forth in Scriptures 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 judgment 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, 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 2016. 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 policies of 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 Rick Thompson, moderator of the 2013 Nominating committee, at [rickthompson26@gmail.com](mailto:rickthompson26@gmail.com) or call 815.354.1682 by **Jan. 31st**.



## Truth or Fiction?

There are churches on the North side of Chicago that hold annual **Rummage Sales**. Their sale is held for **one day** from **7am till 3pm** with profits between **\$250,000 and \$300,000**. ... **IN ONE DAY!** Yes, it is TRUE. I have met with the chair-people of these sales and they have much to share with little ol' RCLPC.

Now I know that we are **not** the North side of Chicago. I know that we have held only one "Sale" and these churches have sponsored them for decades. I know we don't have the storage space, or the hundreds of volunteers, or the customer base that these churches have built over the years.

But this is what **I do know**. I know that their Rummage Sale actually looks just like ours...with the same type of donations...just much more. I know that we have very generous contributors (I am talking about YOU) that made last year's sale a shocking success and I know that we all have wonderful treasures that we are holding on to, waiting to **donate to the church in April**. I know that our congregation will come together to **volunteer for our** annual sale which will take place on **May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Please continue to hold on to those treasures, waiting to donate in some corner of your basement or garage. As you are putting away your Christmas décor and beginning your Spring cleaning, please think about the Church Rummage Sale and set aside those items to donate in April (and receive your tax deductible form), and don't hesitate to tell your friends and neighbors as they too may want to gather their donations.

We are now in the process of organizing Teams to help break up the work load that lies ahead. So please answer our call and **SIGN-UP** to be a part of a team in the Connecting Link.

**Folks, this is going to be FUN! AGAIN!**

Questions? Comments? Contact: Jodie LeFevre, Deb Steele or Kathy Rabe