



The Spirit

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake
Presbyterian Church

March 20, 2014

There's an App for that! (And a Challenge...)

OK, I admit it: Daily prayer for my own personal spiritual life has always been hit or miss. I pray and study scripture at least 6 days a week, but most of that is for worship or bible study preparation. It feeds my soul, but I still need disciplined, frequent God-time just for John.

However, the last couple of years I have been much more successful due to my iPad! It is so convenient and all-encompassing. I have a Prayer Book and a Bible right there, but I was more than delighted when I recently discovered that, for just a couple of dollars, you can buy the PCUSA Office of Theology and Worship Daily Prayer App! A Presbyterian app for Presbyterians, can you believe it?

I quote from the introduction: "Remember that daily communion with God is meant to be a gift (not a chore), and that the habit of prayer is a lifelong practice (not a perfectionist pursuit). Don't be discouraged if it doesn't come easily at first; trust that God has begun a good work in you.

Actually, the app is a simplified, streamlined version of the ancient daily office, a tradition with origins in monastic life and the Jewish temple. With preset levels for beginner, intermediate and advanced users, it will select the appropriate service based on the date and time of day—psalms, readings and prayer—including elements such as hymns and biblical songs (canticles), confessional or devotional readings, and the thanksgiving for light (in evening prayer).

In the words of Scripture, we encounter the living Word of God in Jesus Christ, who speaks good news of grace. Through these words, God imparts the gift of faith and instills the call to faithfulness.

So what is the challenge? I have been using this app (almost, I am human) daily for over a month, and it has brought great blessings. What power would be unleashed if a large number of RCLPCers all prayed every day for themselves, each other, and our common mission? So I challenge as many as possible to buy it, try it and send me an email committing to join this communal devotion, and I will report back in our next edition of the Spirit. Could we get 175 participants?

Blessings to all from your technologically challenged pastor,

John

PS: To those of you who already use other resources for daily prayer: Please let me know, and join in!

PPS: Of course it works on smartphones, too!



Someone you should meet...

Sharing a meal and a conversation. . .what a relaxing way to get to know someone! Richard Brincks and I did just that recently, and it was a great morning. I found out that Richard grew up in Carroll, Iowa, where his dad ran a small grocery store. After earning his Master's degree in Physics, he embarked on a career that dealt mainly with water filtration systems. His work involved traveling, and he enjoyed experiencing the Great Wall of China. He met his wife, Cheryl, in his apartment complex. They had two children, and now have added three granddaughters to the family. Richard has faced some health challenges, but he is feeling good and looking ahead to whatever life brings. His home workshop is where he spends many a day now, working on a wide variety of wood projects. Dick likes to make



children's toys and furniture, and he is very good at it. He made over 100 wooden toy cars and gave them to Nancy Vazzano to share with needy children through the area Food Pantries at Christmastime. He shared pictures of his projects, and I requested he make me some catapult toys for my grandchildren (they catapult ping pong balls, not my grandchildren!). Richard still attends Catholic church, but he also enjoys attending RCLPC and thinks it is fabulous and the people are very welcoming. We are happy to welcome you, Richard!

- Kathy Rabe

Be-YOU-tiful Fashions for a Be-YOU-tiful Cause

RCLPC is sponsoring Jason Nosbaum as a model in the Gigi's Playhouse "Be-YOU-tiful" Spring Fashion Show. The show is Saturday, April 5, 4 p.m., at the Dole Mansion, 401 Country Club Road, Crystal Lake. Natalie Martinez, NBC 5 Chicago reporter and substitute anchor, will be the emcee. Drinks and appetizers will be served.

Gigi's Playhouse is an established series of Down Syndrome Achievement Centers. Serving children and adults of all ages, each Playhouse provides educational and therapeutic programs at no charge to families, and in a format that individuals with Down syndrome learn best. All programs aim to maximize self-confidence and empower individuals to achieve their greatest potential.

Gigi's Playhouse celebrates the many achievements of participants and families, and works tirelessly to change society's outdated perceptions about the amazing potential of individuals with Down syndrome.

RCLPC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. To get more information or register for the event, contact Gigi's Playhouse at mchenry@gigisplayhouse.org, or 815-385-7529. Or contact Cathy Christensen, clchristensen100@aol.com, 815-382-1530.

CP&J Movie Night 7 p.m. Friday, March 21

All are welcome to view *A Place at the Table*, an 84-minute documentary about hunger. This critically acclaimed 2012 film examines hunger in America, largely through the stories of three people suffering from food insecurity. *A Place at the Table* analyzes the problem of hunger from several angles: economic, social, and cultural.

Please join us for the movie, as well as discussion and fellowship! Light refreshments will be available.

WANTED: Fun People!

Volunteers are needed for the 3rd Annual Jim Holder Memorial Golf Outing on Thursday, August 7 at Cary Country Club. You don't have to be a golfer to be part of the team—just someone who likes a good time!

Informational Meeting: Sunday, April 13 – 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall

Contact: Nate Zacher, Chairman zacher91@att.net 815.356.1916

Needed: Volunteers to plan menus, hand out prizes, sell tickets, and help ensure a fun day for all!



Earth Care Team Green Living Fair

SAVE THE DATE! On May 4, the RCLPC Earth Care Team is sponsoring its first Earth Care Green Living Fair!

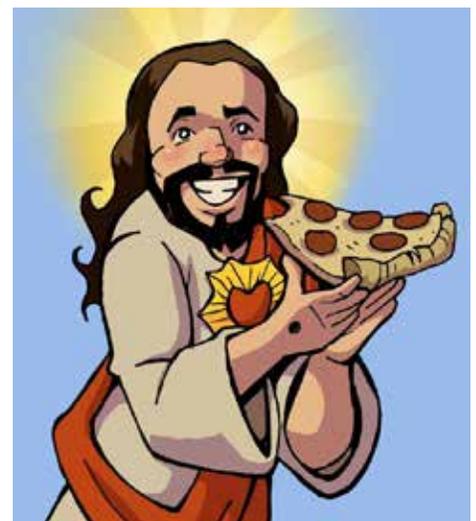
Do you have a eco-friendly business or activity that you want to share with your RCLPC friends? Some ideas: Tips for canning/freezing summer produce, native gardening, home cleaning products, etc.

Hurry...space is limited! Email Pat or Terry Dieckhoff ASAP at tpdieckhoff@ameritech.net to reserve your spot. Call Pat or Terry at 815-245-5658 with any questions.

GSM Pizza Fundraiser April 16

Support the Crystal Lake Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) by eating at Nick's Pizza & Pub in Crystal Lake on April 16. Nick's is generously giving GSM 15% of the net food sales generated (not alcohol or tax) when you eat in or order carryout with a Nick's/GSM coupon on Wednesday, April 16. GSM gives short-term financial help to Crystal Lake people in need and people who are members of Crystal Lake churches. Check out the menu ahead of time at www.nickspizzapub.com.

See you there!



The W is BACK This Saturday, March 22nd!

After a short hiatus, The W, RCLPC's own Women's Group, will meet for lunch and a very special activity at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, March 22nd in Fellowship Hall.

Help celebrate The W's triumphant return with RCLPC's own artist and art instructor, Lori Thompson, as she presents "The Artist in ALL of Us."

Lori believes that everyone is an artist, so we decided to put her to the test for this wonderful afternoon of fun and fellowship with the women of RCLPC. There will be a \$5 material charge.

Sign up by emailing Jodie LeFevre at jodlzl@aol.com.



The W Celebrates RCLPC's 175 Years of Grace with a "175 Years of Fashion" Show and High Tea



Invite your mom, daughter, sister or friends to join your RCLPC "sisters" for a lovely Spring afternoon of fellowship, fun, and fashion on Saturday, April 26th at 2 p.m. We will enjoy the taste sensations of a variety of teas and traditional teatime treats while experiencing a history of vintage fashions provided by "Memories are Made of Fashion".

Reserve your seat by purchasing tickets for yourself and your guests in the Connecting Link. Tickets are just \$12.00 each.

Questions? Email Jodie LeFevre at jodlzl@aol.com.

Calling All Ladies...Your Input is Needed!

Would you be interested in participating in or leading a weekly women's bible study group or book group? What about a craft/hobby circle? Or a walking group that meets at a local park for some exercise and fresh air with friends?

Know anyplace that would make a fun "W" summer field trip?

Please send any and all bright ideas to Jodie LeFevre at jodlzl@aol.com!

The RCLPC 2014 Rummage Sale is in the Works!

The 2014 RCLPC Rummage Sale is on! Thanks to the many wonderful people who have volunteered their time and energy to make this year's sale bigger and better than ever!

The Rummage Sale dates are Friday and Saturday, June 13-14. Donations will be accepted in the Fellowship Hall from May 25-June 9.

Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the big event! Thanks for your support!



Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday - April 17 - 6 p.m. meal and communion

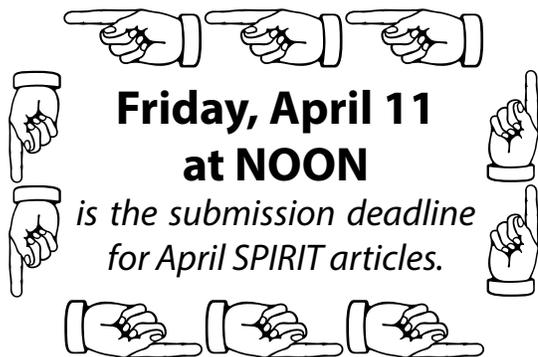
Good Friday - April 18 - 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 20 - 8, 9, 10:15, & 11:15 a.m.

FaithBridge Responds to Assault

FaithBridge was featured in a recent front-page article in the Northwest Herald about their interfaith approach to combating violence in the wake of the racially-motivated assault on a student at Hannah Beardsley Middle Schol in Crystal Lake:

<http://www.nwherald.com/2014/02/17/interfaith-group-hopes-to-reach-out-to-schools-in-light-of-hannah-beardsley-assault/avcwq2d/>



**Friday, April 11
at NOON**

*is the submission deadline
for April SPIRIT articles.*

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!



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!

2014 Offering of Letters, March 23, 2014

Recent disasters have underscored how valuable U.S. food aid is, both in response to emergencies and in tackling hunger and malnutrition in the longer term. 2013's typhoon in the Philippines, 2010's massive earthquake in Haiti, and the ongoing crisis in Syria are examples of countries that have benefitted from U.S. food aid.



With smart changes to food-aid programs, the U.S. can both respond more quickly when disaster strikes and reach more people. We can provide more nutritious food and better support small-scale farmers and build local economies. These reforms and the same amount of funding can benefit up to 17 million people more each year.

You are invited to join thousands of Christians from all over the United States as we help our neighbors overseas through Bread for the World's 2014 Offering of Letters: Reforming U.S. Food Aid. This year's letters focus on fully funding food-aid programs and asking for reforms to make food aid both more efficient and to expand its reach to more of the world's most vulnerable groups.

God invites us to pray, act, and give to address hunger:

- Pray to orient our spiritual lives to encounter God and be ready to reach out to people who struggle with hunger and poverty. Pray for our nation's leaders.
- Act to translate our faith into activities: the Offering of Letters, the Food Pantry work days, the PADS lunch assembly, the food truck.
- Give to end hunger through organizations such as PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, as well as local efforts.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall before or after the worship services on Sunday, March 23, for an opportunity to act. The most effective form of communication with our members of Congress is still a hand-written letter, and a few moments to pen a brief letter can make a difference for God's people in need. Stationery and sample letters will be provided, as well as bread on the tables and coffee brewing in the pots for all.

After all, reforming U.S. food aid is like taking five loaves and two fish and feeding 5,000 people. Don't miss the opportunity.

- Mission Outreach Ministry

Session Highlights, February 24, 2014

- Congratulations to Colum Dillon, who was awarded the Chicago Public Schools Golden Apple Scholarship, which will support his studies toward becoming a teacher.
- At the February meeting of Blackhawk Presbytery, changes in 2015 medical dues for pastors were explained. Family coverage will be a separate assessment of 1.5% effective salary, with Presbytery making a ruling, pending pastor and session input, later in the year. Churches could be required to pay full dues, dues for pastor only, or split the family portion between church and pastor. It's a difficult issue which will affect equity in hiring, church budgets, and relationships with pastors.
- Blackhawk Presbytery voted to allow the use of state-approved concealed carry signs on their properties, which includes RCLPC.
- The divestment from fossil fuel overture was defeated by three votes at the Presbytery meeting. Interest was shown in earth care efforts at the Presbytery level. Eight Presbyteries have supported the amendment nationwide, so it proceeds to General Assembly in June.
- Presbytery Mission giving from RCLPC will be paid out equally over 12 months.
- The 2013 Audit Report found financial records to be in order. Questions for consideration were referred to the Finance Team.
- Monthly financial summaries will be provided to the congregation.
- Vision planning continues with the consideration of the Presbytery MAP program.
- Old hymnals are being returned to donors, and new hymnals labelled with givers' names.
- Lenten and Easter services:
 - Ash Wednesday service, March 5, 7pm
 - Maundy Thursday meal and service with communion, April 17, 6:30pm
 - Good Friday service, April 18, 7pm
 - Easter Sunday services, April 20, 8am, 9am, 10:15am, 11:15am
- Office staff position descriptions were reviewed.
- Concealed carry signs have been posted, with the fifth one, adjacent to the wooden door, to be added when weather warms. A leak in the roof will be fixed as soon as weather allows.
- Marie Randall and Dick Virkus from the Community Awareness Team will be the newspaper liaisons. Publicity information and photos should be sent to them at least two weeks ahead of an event.
- As of January 26, 2013, 112 pledges for 2014 have been received for a total of \$272,985.
- Three rummage sale leaders are willing to organize the event, tentatively set for June 13-14, if enough department leaders are secured. Thank you to those who have indicated willingness to assist. The first \$5000 in profits from the sale will be directed to the ongoing ministries of RCLPC, and the remaining funds to a Building and Grounds line item for interior design improvements. Those funds would be used by a sub-committee acting in consultation with Building and Grounds.
- The golf outing is planned for August 7 at the Cary Country Club.
- \$1000 from RCLPC's Designated Mission was sent to Senior Care Volunteer Network in February. Senior Care relies on volunteers to help seniors maintain their independence, dignity, and quality of life.
- A new leader for the September 2014 CROP Walk is needed.
- The 2014 Offering of Letters on behalf of hungry people worldwide is scheduled for March 23.
- Adult education opportunities during Lent include a class led by Matt on Wednesday evenings, soup and study from 5:30-7pm, and one led by the Pastor at 10am on Sundays.
- The Policies and Procedures Manual was amended to allow persons in the same immediate family or household to serve at the same time on different church boards.
- RCLPC will sponsor member Jason Nosbaum at a fundraiser for a non-profit that supports people with Down's syndrome and their families.
- Seven people have been attending the February Inquirer's Class.
- Next meeting: Monday, March 24, 2014, at 7:00 pm



**THE RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 48 BUILDING
IS TURNING 100!**

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH, 11 AM TO 4 PM
8617 RIDGEFIELD RD., CRYSTAL LAKE**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- OPEN HOUSE & TOURS
- LUNCH FROM NOON TO 1 PM
- HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS ON THE HISTORY OF THE BUILDING & RURAL SCHOOLS IN MCHENRY COUNTY, FROM 1 PM TO 2 PM
 - FEATURING NANCY FIKE, FORMER ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY; VELMA DYSART, PRINCIPAL OF THE RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL 1964-67; AND HERB FRANKS, FOUNDING MEMBER OF MCHENRY COUNTY JEWISH CONGREGATION

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO ATTENDED THE RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL?
PLEASE PASS THE WORD.**

**For more information, contact McHenry County Jewish Congregation,
(815) 455-1810, e-mail mcjcoffice@yahoo.com, www.mcjc-online.org.
Visit our Facebook page at "Friends of Ridgefield School District 48."**