

# The SPIRIT

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

November 20, 2013

## Two-Minute Meditation: *Micah 5:6-8* *RCLPC Sends Aid to Syria and the Philippines!*

I am sure that I am not alone when I say that when watching the events in places like Syria and the disaster and destruction in the Philippines I feel completely helpless. How can I do anything? But we can do and did do something!

Last summer our VBS made 40 Hygiene Kits and one Disaster Bucket for Church World Services. This was in response to the annual challenge to our Presbytery issued by CWS. As requested, on Tuesday of this week all the churches in our Presbytery delivered their kits and buckets ... and the total was ... 2,527 Kits and 126 Disaster Buckets!!

We were also told that in the last 12 months CWS has distributed survival materials to refugees and to victims of flood, fire and earthquake in Cuba, Malawi, Syria, Colorado, Oklahoma and Illinois. And those supplies have already been dispatched to the Philippines.

We were assured that our donations would either be also dispatched to the Philippines or replace supplies already sent and kept in reserve for the next occasion when they are needed.

Little did I consider that last summer when I was helping our children gather facecloths and band aids, or last Monday when I remembered to load the supplies into my van, that such a little thing would be so important? That our little action would be a life saver and a sign of hope and God's love for someone in the midst of total despair.

Micah 5:6-8 tells us to "walk humbly" and honor God and I am sure that our humble efforts, which we should never underestimate, answer God's cry to "give generously" and "help the widows and the orphans."

While at Presbytery this week I re-learned a) exactly how even a little helps and b) how inter-connected we all are and c) how generosity can alleviate suffering.

*Pastor John Dillon*

## Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Patrick and Colleen Cameron on the birth of their daughter, Amalie Grace, born on October 12th.

Congratulations to Lou and Kathy Rabe and family on the birth of their new grandson: Owen Matthew Chyterbok.



Interfaith Community  
Thanksgiving Service  
Sunday, November 24  
7pm at MCJC

Suicide Awareness  
& Remembrance  
Service in  
Woodstock Square

Saturday,  
Nov. 23  
5 - 6pm



## Advent Prayers, Poems & Thoughts

Would you like to receive an email once or twice a week during Advent to prepare your heart and soul for the coming of the Christ Child? You do? Well, send your email address to the office and Pastor John will add you to the Advent Prayers, Poems & Thoughts mailing list.



# Toys for Tots

## Benefit Concert this Friday, Nov. 22 at 6pm

Last December, our church invited the Potts and Pans steel pan groups to play a benefit concert for the Toys for Tots program. Their music helped raise more than \$100 and 50 toys. This year, Potts and Pans, along with students from the percussion studio of Sherri Dees, will again present a concert to benefit the McHenry County Toys for Tots program, on **Friday, November 22 at 6:00pm**, in our sanctuary.

Please bring your family and friends to our church, for a fun evening of steel drum music and marimba ensemble music, as a prelude to the holiday season. The **admission fee is a new, unwrapped toy**. You may contact Matt Potts at [matt@pottsandpans.org](mailto:matt@pottsandpans.org) or Sherri Dees at [sherri@rclpc.org](mailto:sherri@rclpc.org) with questions.

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist, Major William Hendricks, in Los Angeles, CA. As of 2009, the Toys for Tots Program and Foundation have collected and distributed almost five hundred million toys.

## Global Gift Shop

Thank you, thank you RCLPCer's for your support of our Global Gift Shop! Your purchases allow artisans to improve their lives. You're making the world a brighter place for people all over the globe. Thank you!



## Philippines Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan left monumental devastation when it struck the central Philippines on November 8. The storm has been identified as one of the worst recorded typhoons in history, reported to be stronger than both Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy combined.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is working in collaboration with our mission partner, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) to respond to this crisis. Initial response includes the provision of non-food items, material resources, drinking water, emergency shelter kits, and cash-for-work-programs.

### *How You Can Help*

**Give.** Share your financial blessings by designating gifts to DR000012-Philippines. Individuals may give through RCLPC (check made out to "RCLPC" and write PDA on the memo line), give online, or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. You can also text 'PDA' to 20222 to donate \$10 for disaster response.

**Act.** Sign up to receive PDA RIN (Rapid Information Network) emails to be aware of current responses and urgent needs.

**Pray.** Please pray that through the response of the faith community, the people and communities impacted by Typhoon Haiyan and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met, and be reminded of the hope and compassion that are found in Christ.

## Not Too Late to Order Gift Cards

Scrip cards is extending the deadline to this Sunday, November 24th, which will get you your gift cards in plenty of time for the holidays. If you have or want to donate from the Giving Tree and pull a gift card tag or two, you will have time to place that order with Scrip, and Missions will receive a percentage from your order. So a win, win right there!

Order forms are on the bulletin board in the Connecting Link and please fill these out with a check to RCLPC and Scrip on the memo line. Then please place them in Joan Jensema's mailbox, down the stairs by the brown doors by the end of the 11:00 service. Thank you for your support to our Missions.



## Times Change and People Move Away

Since Wayne Prindiville has moved to Rockford, Bob Grecco has become the keeper of the "things to do and the fix-it list" around the church. So if you see something that needs attention, please contact Bob or anyone on the Building and Grounds Team so we can prioritize the repair. Do you know who is on that team? It includes Lou Rabe, George Schieler, Ron Troxell, Steve Connell and Ken Stewart. We also are looking for another volunteer for the team, so let Lou know if you want to join us.

## Just a Reminder...

A couple of Sundays ago we heard a wonderful presentation by Jessica from Home of the Sparrow about the vital work they do to help women and children in need. She thanked us for our much needed support.

Now we have another way we can help this great organization. Please save the Rachel Ray stamps that Jewel Grocery Store is currently offering. With these stamps, we can purchase dishes that can be shared with the families at Home of the Sparrow as they begin their new life. Jessica said it would be such a great help, and it costs you nothing . . . just save the stamps, collect them from friends and neighbors, and pass them along to Kathy Rabe. She will turn them for dishes and have them donated to Home of the Sparrow. Think about this as you do your holiday shopping – what a great way to support Home of the Sparrow.

## It's Cookie Walk Time! Volunteers are needed as well as BAKERS!



Cookie Walk is just around the corner and we need your help. Last year we ran out of cookies by 11:00 and we still had many customers coming to buy cookies. The more cookies we have, the more people we can help! Please, please, please we need all the bakers we can get to bake as many cookies as possible to help those in need. If for some reason we do have left over cookies they will go to the "Celebrate the Child" Christmas Concert by our wonderful musicians on Sunday at 3pm. So please bake some cookies and bake some more because there are never enough! Our sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Connecting Link and you may drop off your goodies on Friday, December 13th from 9am-8:30pm. If you need to drop them off earlier or later please call the office because unless you have a key, the doors will be locked. Thank you again for your ongoing help with our church Missions!



## Christmas Food Truck

The annual Christmas Food Truck will be coming to our church the morning of December 19. Our congregation has always responded generously to the needs of God's people.

Due to the past generosity towards this fund, we currently have the resources to make Christmas brighter for 150 families with our food box distribution. Thank you for that support!

However your help is needed in distributing, greeting and showing RCLPC's warm hospitality towards the food box recipients. Be on the lookout for the signup sheets for numerous ways to help out on December 19. Thank you RCLPC! Mission Outreach Ministry Team

## High School Youth Group

On November 1-3, 13 members of the high school youth group participated in a weekend retreat at the Covenant Harbor camp in Lake Geneva, WI. The speaker worked in inner city Chicago and talked to us about helping those in need and that we can make a difference in our world today. Our weekend concluded with Sunday worship and many of the youth from our group helped lead and plan that worship service. It was a positive experience for me as well as I got to know the youth better.

### HS Upcoming events:

- \* December 7th—Movie Night
- \* December 21st—Service Project (details to come soon)

## What's Unique About RCLPC?

How will people in the communities surrounding us get to know where we are and who we are? Why will people come here? Join us to brainstorm ideas December 8, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. We seem to be the best kept secret in Crystal Lake, so how do we help others find the support and joy we enjoy? Jot down ideas and bring them to our Community Awareness "coffee time," Sunday, Dec. 8. ~ Karen Hutchings

## Middle School Youth Group

November 10th was our Parent/Youth challenge. It was a hard fought battle that saw many sways in momentum. It came down to a tiebreaker but the parents emerged victorious from the epic battle. It was great for parents and youth to have fun together and the youth to see their parents participate in funny games.

### MS Upcoming events:

- \* December 6-7-Lock in at church
- \* January 24-26-Retreat

## Children's Sunday School Holiday Schedule

There will be no children's (preschool - high school) Sunday school classes offered on Sunday, December 1st, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on December 8th. 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. Thank you.

## Confirmation Class Update

Six of our high school youth embarked on their Confirmation journey this Fall; Ryan and Marin Lilly, Chase Ray, Nate Zacher, Julia Newman and Deanna Palmer have been meeting each Sunday during the education hour and along with their mentors are learning more about God and their faith. This class is spirited, intelligent, questioning and overall, a group of people you should get to know. If you have a moment take a look at their Family Trees in Fellowship Hall. They are a reflection of not only their lineage, but of their unique personalities as well. If you are interested in what they are learning, I urge you to join the *Re:Form* class. This class is a mirror of the Confirmation class and is intended to create dialogue between our youth and adult members.

During December some of our Confirmands and their families will be leading worship. This is yet another opportunity for you to get to know them and I hope you will! ~ Raechel Sowa

## Adult Education Trifecta...

At RCLPC, every adult is a winner on Sunday mornings at 10am. Here's what's happening:

**Wired Word** – Bible lessons shaped around current news events. Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, 50th anniversary of the death of C.S. Lewis, and Pope Francis's suspension of the "Bling" Bishop were some past news events viewed from a biblical perspective.

**RE:Form** – Tackling questions that may be on your mind, such as: Do cremated people go to heaven?... Is following Jesus necessary, or can I simply say I believe in him?... Why should I pray, because God does not answer all my prayers?

The Third Option – In December, **A Savior is Born** – "In our frantic consumer-driven society, how can we make sure that the Christmas "holiday" remains a holy day?"

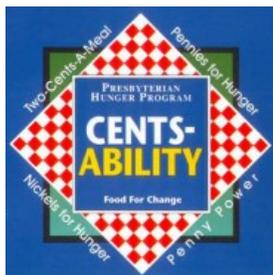
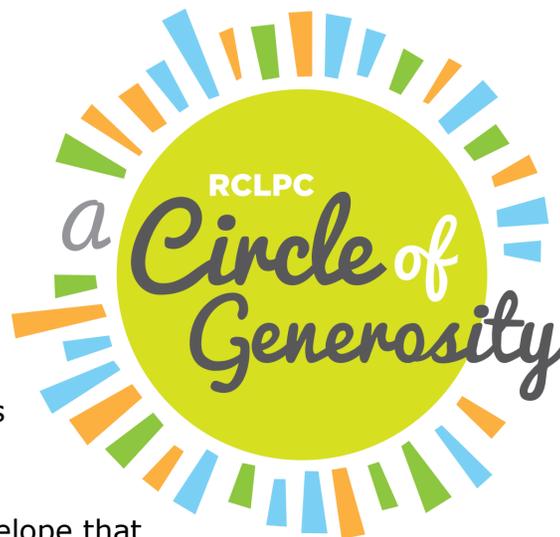
## RCLPC, A Circle of Generosity-- Dedication Sunday, November 24

Join us on Sunday, November 24, as we celebrate God's generosity toward us and honor God's invitation to bless others. Our pledges will be presented for dedication during worship at the 9:00 and 11:00am services. All are invited to share in a celebration gathering--breads and fruit, coffee and cider--at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.

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 one of three ways:

- ◆ Mail the Pledge Card back to RCLPC in the enclosed envelope that you received with the letter that was mailed out last week.
- ◆ Bring it with you to worship services this coming Sunday, November 24, as we dedicate our pledge cards and our regular offerings.
- ◆ Complete your Pledge Card online at [rclpc.org](http://rclpc.org). Click on "Pledge Now". Extra cards that say "I submitted my pledge online" will be available at church so that all can participate in the dedication.

Will you join us as we continue the Circle of Generosity that is RCLPC?  
The Stewardship Team



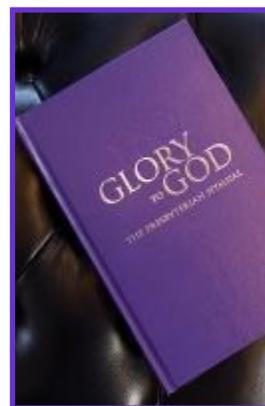
### Time to Return Cents-Ability Offering Banks!

This coming Sunday, November 24, at either service, is the time to return Cents-Ability banks. Children will be invited to bring their offering banks forward to a special guest. You'll want to be there to find out who it is! Thanks for being part of RCLPC's Circle of Generosity.  
~ Stewardship Team

## *Glory to God*

The new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*, will contain the following:

- ◆ More than 800 hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs.
- ◆ Approximately 50% of these will be from the 1990 Hymnal, while the rest will come from older Presbyterian hymnals, other denominational song-books, and individual authors and composers.
- ◆ A musical setting of almost every Sunday lectionary psalm.
- ◆ Music from six different continents.
- ◆ Music covering all major historical and sacred genres, including approximately thirty-five African American and gospel hymns ("Soon and Very Soon," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," and others).
- ◆ Worship aids and printed liturgies for Sunday services (including Baptism and Lord's Supper) and services for daily prayer. Orders of worship will include congregational responses, prayers, and creeds.



Special offering envelopes, 'New Hymnal Offering' are in the pews. Hymnals are \$17.95 each. To purchase a new hymnal, please write a check to "RCLPC" designating "new hymnal" on the memo line. On the outside of the envelope, please designate 'In Memory of', 'In Honor of' or gift to RCLPC. Please ask Sue Neuschel or Bill Pittenger if you have any questions.

Thank You - the worship committee



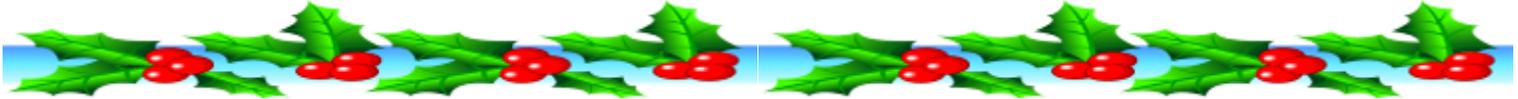
## Session Highlights November, 2013

- \* The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 10:00am.
- \* RCLPC's official minutes and roster were reviewed by Presbytery and found to meet standards.
- \* A revised Event Form was approved.
- \* Martin Luther King Day was approved as a day off for church staff.
- \* Young people who are two years out of school and not active at RCLPC will be removed from the membership rolls. It is our hope that they will find church homes in the communities where they live.
- \* The choir fundraising website is up and running.
- \* The existing church policy prohibiting firearms and/or concealed weapons was reaffirmed. Signs will be posted at the church entrances when the new state law takes effect.
- \* A proposed denominational fossil fuel divestment overture supported by several PC(USA) groups was approved to be sent on to Blackhawk Presbytery for their consideration in advance of General Assembly in June 2014.
- \* Blackhawk Presbytery has elected new officers. The moderator will be Stacy Cavanaugh from Galena. Bill Pittenger and Lori Thompson have been appointed as our two voting elders. Thanks to Dale Prindiville for her years of service at Presbytery on our behalf.
- \* Vision preliminary planning is continuing. Various processes have been reviewed, and John Rickard, General Presbyter, has met with the team.
- \* Up to \$1500 from general funds was authorized for legal review of the J.C. Button Endowment Foundation procedures. This will assure that the Foundation is in accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act and allow the Foundation's work to go forward.
- \* The communion schedule for 2014 will follow the same pattern as 2013, including home communions, weddings, and funerals as requested.
- \* Changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual were approved.
- \* Building and Grounds reported that the carpets were cleaned on Nov. 18. Thanks to the volunteers who removed furniture from the nurseries and Fellowship Hall after services on Nov. 17. One tree fell during the Nov. 17 storm and has been cleared.
- \* Plans are being made to hold the rummage sale again in 2014. Recommendations from the 2013 team are accepted gratefully for study and action as leaders are sought for next year's event.
- \* The Christmas food truck is scheduled for December 19.
- \* Compassion, Peace and Justice reports a good group for *Five Broken Cameras*, including folks from Grace Lutheran.
- \* Christian Education is proceeding well for children, youth, and adults. In upcoming months Dan Gilman will lead an Advent class for adults, and Bill Pittenger will share slides and information about his recent trip with Presbytery to Kenya in January. Confirmation class is continuing. Youth have recently attended a retreat at Lake Geneva. The Youth Visioning Team has several efforts underway.
- \* Kathy Rabe has agreed to be coordinator for RCLPC's 175th anniversary events in 2014.
- \* The next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16, at 7pm.



## “Celebrate the Child” Christmas Concert Sunday, December 15, at 3pm

Help the adult choir make their journey to Lincoln Center New York AND celebrate Advent by attending the “Celebrate the Child” Christmas concert on Sunday, December 15 at 3pm. Mark you calendars and tell your friends because ALL of the music ensembles will be performing in a Christmas concert with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. A FREE-WILL offering will take place to help send the adult choir to perform at Lincoln Center in New York City in 2014. Plan to join this festive afternoon of music and fellowship and JOY!



## It's Cookie Walk Time!

Saturday, December 14th from 9am-Noon

Time to start warming up those ovens to bake dozens of cookies for our Cookie Walk customers which in turn helps our Missions. We would love to have everyone participate by baking cookies and/or candies, volunteering for decorating Fellowship Hall, helping with cookie drop off day, cookie set-up and of course Cookie Walk Day! Look for sign-up sheets on bulletin board in the Connecting Link. Thank you!