

The SPIRIT

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

November 6, 2013

Two-Minute Meditation: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

"RCLPC is rebuilding its financial security after several lean years. Our future is bright!"

"Some of our most active and long standing members are moving out of the community! How will we survive?" (approximately five of our families have recently moved away)

I frequently hear these two phrases at meetings and in casual conversation. To quote Dickens: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

RCLPC is a wonderful, resilient and generous congregation, and we will keep on, keeping on. That is the message and the fact of our joint journey of faith. So perhaps we should take a moment to reflect on what advice Paul gave the church in Corinth and see if it also applies to us.

For Paul, true happiness is found in what you give ... not in what you receive. "God loves a cheerful giver," he tells them, ramping up the very first Christian stewardship campaign (v. 7).

Do you want to be enriched in every way? Then let's see some "great generosity" (v. 11).

Are you interested in glorifying God? Then show your brothers and sisters "the generosity of your sharing" (v. 13).

Are you looking for God to provide you "with every blessing in abundance"? Then don't hold tight to a miserly attitude — instead, "share abundantly in every good work" (v. 8).

The apostle is laying out for us a paradox — what we might call "The Stewardship Paradox." In any true paradox, you are faced with a statement that seems to be inherently contradictory, but turns out to be true. In Paul's words to the Corinthians, he is saying that personal enrichment comes from great generosity, and that blessings in abundance come from sharing abundantly with others. His point is that you receive the most by giving the most.

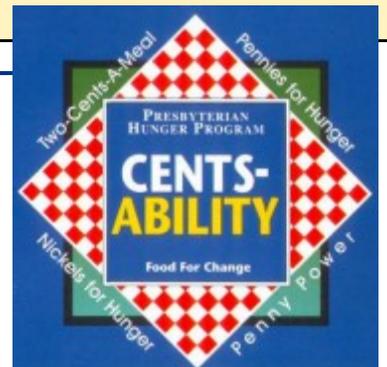
So how does this work? "The point is this," says Paul, using an agricultural image: "The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (v. 6).

Whether you are growing melons or mission projects, Paul is absolutely right — you cannot expect significant results without making a significant investment. There will be no great harvest of pumpkins in the fields, or people in the pews, unless forward-thinking men and women are willing to sow bountifully by making significant investments of time and talent and treasure.

We are a Circle of Generosity by the Grace of God. Join us throughout November as we celebrate and explore the impact RCLPC can have in ministry and service.

Cents-Ability Offering Banks

The PC(USA) Cents-Ability program gives our children a chance to contribute a few cents at every meal, while remembering the needs of hungry people in prayer. Pick up an offering bank in a children's Sunday School classroom, and bring them back on Sunday, November 24, to be received by a special guest. The funds raised go back to PC(USA) for local and world hunger ministries. Our youth are definitely part of RCLPC's Circle of Generosity! ~ Stewardship Team



5 Broken Cameras

You Won't Want to Miss It!!

The CPJ team invites you to this unforgettable film at its Friday night movie series on November 15 at 7pm.

5 Broken Cameras is an intensely personal account of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as it plays out on the ground in the West Bank. It is a rare look at the conflict from the inside of a Palestinian village. Emad Bernat buys his first camera in 2005 to film his newborn baby boy, Gibreel. The people of Bil'in discover that the security barrier route will cut through their farmlands and a nearby Israeli settlement will expand onto their lands. Bel'in villagers begin marching every Friday in peaceful protest. As each of the five cameras is destroyed, the powerful story is embedded in the bullet-ridden remains of digital technology. Over the course of the film Emad becomes the peaceful activist of an escalating struggle as olive trees are bulldozed, lives are lost, and a wall is built to segregate burgeoning Israeli settlements. Gibreel's loss of innocence and the destruction of each camera are metaphors in this deeply personal documentary. Bernat joins with Israeli filmmaker Guy Davidi to create this extraordinary Oscar nominated work of art.

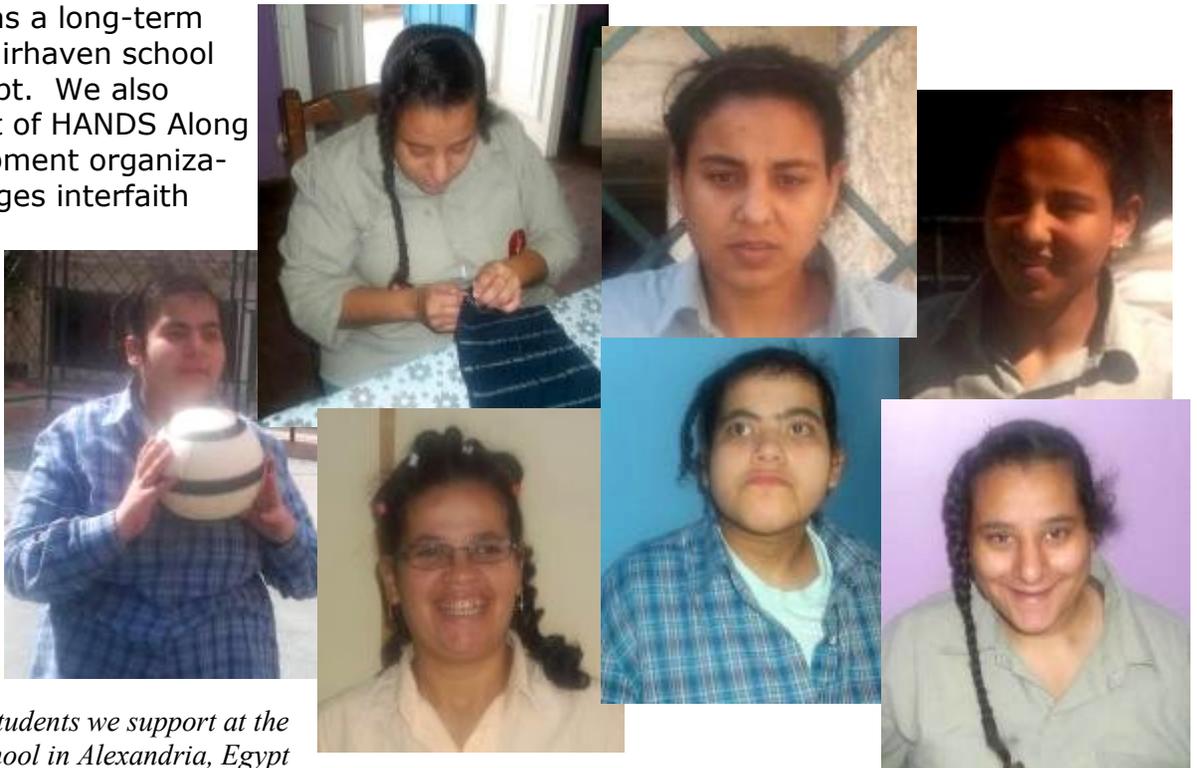


Check Out the New CPJ Table in Fellowship Hall.

November's focus is on the Middle East. Learn what the Presbyterian Church (USA) is concerned about in the Middle East, and how the Israel Palestine Mission Network is helping spread the information. Also learn about ways you can make a difference through support of the Seraj Library Project, Friends of Sabeel, and the PC(USA) Boycott of all Israeli goods from the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Our church also has a long-term connection with Fairhaven school in Alexandria, Egypt. We also encourage support of HANDS Along the Nile, a development organization that encourages interfaith communication and job skill training in Egypt.

Books are available for loan and many articles may be of interest to you. Have a look! ~ CPJ Team



Faces of students we support at the Fairhaven School in Alexandria, Egypt



Global Gift Shop -

Sunday, November 17, 8:30am - 12:30pm

Our annual Global Gift Shop will be held **Sunday, November 17, from 8:30am—12:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. As in past years we will have beautiful fair trade items from Global Hands, delicious Divine Chocolates and Palestinian olive oil.

In addition, this year we will have some items from Hands along the Nile. Their products are made by Egyptian people who receive a fair price, which helps them become self-sufficient. Global Hands items can be purchased with a credit card, however the chocolate, oil and items from Hands

Along the Nile will need to be purchased with check or cash. This is an excellent time to purchase presents for Christmas. Please stop by and buy! Thanks! Dawn Condill



23rd Annual Community Harvest

To support this year's Community Harvest, Donations benefit the Crystal Lake Food Pantry and the Jaycees' "Share-A-Christmas" Program.

Please return your filled bag to church on November 24th.

Items Needed:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Chili | 7) Canned Pasta |
| 2) Dinner Helpers | 8) Canned Beans - (Any kind) |
| 3) Paper Goods | 9) Baking Mix/Supplies |
| 4) Pasta | 10) Salad Dressing |
| 5) Ramen Noodles | 11) Rice |
| 6) Macaroni and Cheese | 12) Cleaning Products |

Monetary donations are tax deductible, and can be made online at clpantry.org.

Questions? Please contact MJ Towne.

For event information, please visit [facebook.com/communityharvest](https://www.facebook.com/communityharvest).
"Thanks for Always Giving!"

PRESENTED BY
CRYSTAL LAKE
Chamber of Commerce

JAYCEES
CRYSTAL LAKE
FOOD PANTRY



community
HARVEST



To the lovely ladies of RCLPC,

This December we will not be offering our Advent by Candlelight event, but we plan to enjoy this wonderful evening for the ladies next December.

This year there will be a **"Celebrate the Child" Christmas Concert on December 15** that promises to be a great holiday celebration, so please mark that date on your calendars.

Movie Night
at RCLPC
5 Broken Cameras
Friday,
November 15
at 7pm

Global Gift Shop
Sunday,
November 17
8:30am - 12:30pm
Fellowship Hall

*Plan to join this festive
afternoon of
music and fellowship and JOY!*

Celebrate the Child
Christmas Concert
December 15
3 - 5pm

*a free-will offering will help support the
Adult Choir's trip to sing at Lincoln Center
in New York City in May, 2014*



Toys for Tots
Benefit Concert
by Potts & Pans
Friday, November 22
6 - 8pm



**Suicide Awareness
& Remembrance**
Service in
Woodstock Square
Saturday,
November 23
5 - 6pm



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

Our very own Adult Choir Invited to Perform at Lincoln Center NYC in 2014!!

Yes, it promises to be an amazing experience but the story that led up to this invitation is equally amazing for "lil ol' RCLPC". Earlier this year our adult choir performed the magnificent *Requiem* by renowned composer, Bradley Ellingboe. Kim Stewart decided to put the recording of that performance on the church website (where you can find it today at www.rclpc.org).

Bradley Ellingboe found and listened to our recording, then in his own words commended the choir by saying "It really was extraordinarily fine!" He then proceeded to invite our entire choir to help premier his new composition *Star Song* next year on May 25th at Lincoln Center in New York City. What a compliment for our music program!

At this time, 28 choir members have pledged to travel to New York and represent RCLPC. Many will be taking off work and all require a financial investment for this endeavor. There are a few hardworking supporters currently developing fundraising initiatives to defray the required costs. We would like to thank Dorothy Vick, Joan Jensema and Linda Peel who recently launched our fundraising efforts with a "S'Mores for Sounds" event. We have a long way to go with an ultimate goal to raise \$50,000. Some upcoming initiatives will include:

- 1) Donations through various Internet sites featuring our choir and congregation singing "Circle of Grace". This is a song composed by Ken Stewart who is generously offering a "free gift" of a copy of the sheet music in response to a donation for the choir trip. The song/video will be featured on YouTube, produced by Rick Thompson and Ken Stewart.
- 2) A **"Celebrate the Child" Christmas Concert** performed by all of our music ensembles and reception scheduled for **December 15**. Please invite family and friends. A free-will offering will take place to benefit the trip.
- 3) Requests to all Presbyterian Churches, local churches, and the community for financial support.
- 4) Fine Arts Grants.

Most of these initiatives are directed toward raising funds outside the congregation. If you would like to donate to our cause (for which we will be extremely grateful) we ask that you do not confuse any donation with your annual pledge to the upcoming Stewardship Campaign. If you have any "talents" to offer our fundraising team (computer skills, P.R., writing, event planning, etc.), please consider joining us by contacting the office (Amy or Kim) or Sherri. Finally, we ask you, the congregation to keep us in your prayers as we prepare during the upcoming months.

It is true that this invitation is a great honor for our choir, but more importantly it reflects upon our entire church and all of you who are our church family. Bless you for your support.

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, December 8. ~ Karen Hutchings

Watch For These Adult ED Opportunities

- during the 10am education hour

- ◆ Ever wonder about the basic messages presented in Disney films? For three Sundays beginning November 10, Matt will offer a class on religion in the movies. This proves to be a fascinating look at how Christianity and the Bible find their way into so many underlying themes. Be prepared to explore big screen entertainment from a new and different perspective.
- ◆ "A Savior is Born," by Peter Briscoe, is the title for this year's Advent offering. The biblical premises of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, all presented through a short video, are sure to promote an exciting group discussion. This class, starting December 1 and running for four consecutive Sundays, is sure to heighten your awareness and understanding of the Christmas season.



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.

The Fall Weather is Upon Us . . .

Can Winter Be Far Behind?

Time to prepare the church grounds for the winter chill! Leaves to rake up, plants to dig up that somehow grew where they were not supposed to be, bushes to prune, and general cleaning up of the grounds . . . all to be done before snow falls.



We hope you can pitch in and help **this Saturday morning, November 9, from 8:00 – 11:00am.**

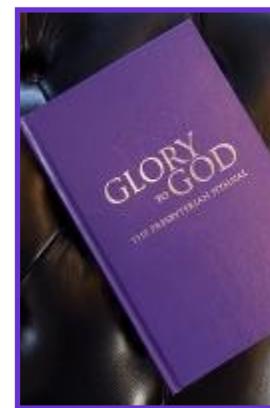
If you can only join us for an hour, it would be greatly appreciated.

Bring your favorite rake and pruning shears. Hope to see you there! Did we mention that there will be donuts?

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

Just a Reminder...

Last Sunday at church there was 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.

News Flash!!!

Recently, Karen Leuchtmann accepted the high honor of becoming your kitchen coordinator. If your group is having an event that will require additional kitchen supplies, please let the church office know exactly what you will need and when you will need it.

After your event, clean the kitchen as if your Mom is going to ground you if it isn't done right.

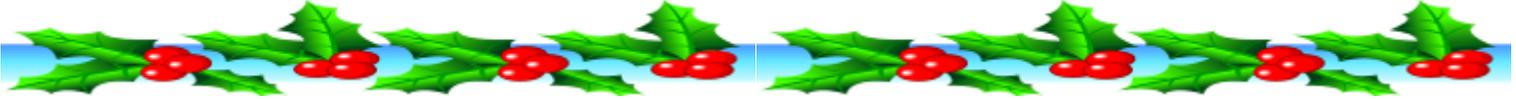
Session Highlights October, 2013

- ◆ Approved several fundraisers: evening of percussion by Potts and Pans to benefit Toys for Tots on Nov. 22; Cookie Walk for missions on Dec. 14; musical concert by the adult choir for church and community on Dec. 15; a pancake breakfast by the senior high youth group during the annual congregational meeting.
- ◆ A video of "Circle of Grace" will be used for an Internet-based "crowd funding" effort to help fund the choir trip to New York next May. The Presbyterian Mission Exchange was approved as financial agent for RCLPC to receive funds electronically in support of our music ministry.
- ◆ Scholarships are available to Presbyterian youth planning to attend Presbyterian colleges; interested youth should contact Director of Youth and Children's Ministries Matt Brown.
- ◆ An ordained member is sought to be a Presbytery elder for Blackhawk Presbytery. Meetings are typically held during the day on the second Tuesday of every other month. Contact Pastor John if interested.
- ◆ Christmas worship services are set for Christmas Eve, 4:00, 6:00, 7:30, and 9:30pm; one service on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 10am.
- ◆ Repairs to the roof and siding have been completed to the Building and Grounds Team's satisfaction. Fellowship Hall and nursery carpets will be cleaned in November.
- ◆ Mission Team reported a food truck is being scheduled for the third week of December. The Giving Tree will be ready on Nov. 17. The Global Gift Shop will be held also on November 17 in Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ The Visioning Team will be preparing a report over the next several months that refines our vision for the future.
- ◆ Christian Education is offering a class during Advent for adults.
- ◆ Stewardship will be a focus during November, with pledges to be dedicated on Nov. 24, and a celebration gathering held at 10:00am that day. About 60 Time & Talent surveys have been returned to date.
- ◆ Thanks to Karen Hutchings for serving as RCLPC's representative to the Good Samaritan Ministry.
- ◆ The Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7:00pm, Nov. 24, at the McHenry County Jewish Congregation.
- ◆ Next Session meeting: Monday, Nov. 18, 7:00pm.



“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 your 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!