

The SPIRIT

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

September 4, 2013

Final Chance to Attend the "W" Women's Group Field Trip to ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS SATURDAY (the 7th)

meet at church at 9am and depart at 9:15
Cost of ticket is \$8 and then lunch to follow.

Don't miss this chance to experience beauty of
summer's end with your friends in the "W". Feel
free to invite your friends, sisters, moms, etc...the
more the merrier! Just shoot Jodie LeFevre a quick
email (jodlzl@aol.com) to tell her you are joining
the group.

Hey, Young Singers!

We've got some exciting plans
for children's choirs this year!
Combined choir practice starts
TODAY, September 4th, and will
be from 5:15-6:15pm on
Wednesdays. I'm looking for-
ward to seeing you and hearing
your beautiful voices again!
If you (or your parents) have
any questions, concerns, etc.
please feel free to contact me!
Elizabeth Novak. See you on
Wednesdays at 5:15pm!



Brewed Awakenings Returns this Sunday

You will be met with the wonderful aroma of fresh
espresso to mix with your favorite flavorings. This month
special is "The S'mores Latte" you don't want to miss it!
We will also serve chilled coffee drinks, Chai Tea, Fruit
Smoothies and Italian Ice!

**It's Brewed Awakenings with a KICK on
KICK-OFF SUNDAY!**

Two-Minute Meditation

"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches". Proverbs 22:1

This scripture came to mind when I read from the BBC Magazine: "A Tennessee court has banned a couple from naming their son Messiah, saying that only Jesus Christ "earned" that name. When the judge in Cocke County ordered the parents of seven-month-old Messiah DeShawn Martin to rename him Martin DeShawn McCullough, she argued it would put him "at odds with a lot of people" in a very Christian county.

That's not the experience of Messiah Rhodes, a 26-year-old documentary maker who was raised by his Methodist grandparents in Queens, New York. "I went to church, not just on Sunday but also on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I ran a Bible study group when I was 10 or 11. So the ironic thing here is that I grew up in a religious background but no-one was hostile to my name".

There were 762 American baby boys named Messiah last year, and that figure is growing. The Social Security Administration ranks it the fourth fastest-growing name for baby boys - it leapt from 633rd in 2011 to 387th in 2012." Can you imagine going through life called "Messiah"? I can't.

A pastor-mentor once told me he wore his clerical collar every day because "then I cannot deny or hide my calling. I see a Sikh with a turban and I know exactly what standards he at least attempts to hold. But Christians, can hide their beliefs". Would we be better followers of Christ if we re-adopted the Victorian practice of naming children after virtues such as: Chastity, Honesty, Hope or Joy? How do we live up to the name of Christian? How shall they know us?

Pastor John

A New Year for Education Opportunities Kick-Off Sunday, September 8th



Our church year begins. Fall with its crisp air, colored leaves, and back to school noises calls out to RCLPC. The many educational offerings planned for the Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, education hour, will provide a learning experience for all ages. Whether studying Bible stories and persons of faith or learning about issues facing the Presbyterian Church in today's world, you are sure to find exciting topics to explore.

Mark your calendar for **September 8, Kick-Off Sunday**. Teachers will greet the children in their regular assigned classrooms. From there, they will search for treasures hidden about the church. Fellowship Hall will end the hunt with a special party for everyone.

Our **Preschool and Kindergarten** will use a new curriculum called "*Buzz*". This presents learning fun through hands-on play activities. Children of 3-6 years of age begin building their Christian foundation around God's love for them.

The **First through Fifth grades** will continue to use the "*Crossings for Kids*". By following the Bible's core stories, children engage their whole being through journal pages and fun learning activities. Take home pages continue to nurture their family in faith.

This year, our **Middle school and High school** classes will be using the *Spice Rack* curriculum which involves very little lecturing, but instead creates a fast-paced, interactive, faith sharing experience. Each lesson will engage the youth in the text of the Bible in order for them to better understand what the text is saying. We will start off with the book of Romans.

A New Year for Education Opportunities— *Continued*

"RE:FORM" by Sparkhouse is the name of a curriculum that aptly describes the new series our **Confirmation Class** will explore as they travel their journey to RCPLC membership. Short, humorous animations each week tell the story of our faith. Presented in a special way, "RE:FORM" grabs the interest of youths allowing them to wrestle with historic Christian faith and theology questions. Check out <http://reform.wearesparkhouse.org/>

You have a neat opportunity this year to explore several **Adult Education** offerings – select or mix and match.

Each week **The Wired Word** meets to delve into current news with Scripture and hope. The weekly installment comes to you via e-mail on Thursdays, including biblical commentary and discussion questions related to a news topic for that week. *Didn't receive the materials?* Call the church office and add your name to the email list. *Didn't have time to read it?* Come anyway to join in the discussion led by Cindy and Dave Theobald and Jim Bauman. We will meet in the Library/Lounge.

Are you curious as to the Presbyterian view on ...a triune God? ...on Faith? ...the Bible? ...Sin and Salvation? ...or other topics? This discussion group will explore **"The Presbyterian View of _____"**. Pastor John will lead the class for 4 to 6 weeks with a hiatus of a few weeks after it is finished. Then a new class will begin. We need your help! We need you to fill in the blank. If you have a topic that you'd like John to explore, please send it to the church office at office@rcplc.org. This class will meet in Pastor John's office.

Follow Along With Me On My Faith Journey. Here you have the chance each week to shadow the same "RE:FORM" curriculum concept/topic our Confirmation kids discover. This adult group is open to all members/friends to help reaffirm our faith. Join us in this new concept. Engage with us in fascinating discussions as we learn to respond and grow in Grace. This class meets in Fellowship Hall.

An exciting and fun filled year awaits our **Middle and High School Youth Groups.**

The big, huge **Middle School lock-in** will kick-off this weekend of **Sept. 6 and 7** beginning **at 6pm**. All 6th through 8th graders will have an opportunity to renew old friendships and meet those newbie kids. Come on out. Games, food, and other excitement awaits. Service projects, fun nights, field trips, video games, overnights, and hangout times will all make for a fantastic year.

High School jump-starts the year at **4 pm on Saturday, Sept. 7th** at Tom and Pepper Lafontaine's house. All freshmen through seniors can anticipate an exciting evening of playing games, joking around a campfire and enjoying a mouthwatering cookout. And don't forget, you can catch up with everyone else's summer adventures and bring on board those freshies. Service projects, fun nights, field trips, video games, overnights, and hangout times (plus a few secret surprises) will serve up a ton of thrills and excitement all year long.



Your Christian Education Team is excited and looking forward to the new year. If you like, ask any member about what's going on, and then come along and join in the experience.

Thanks for the Memories

From Wayne and Dale Prindiville

RCLPC has been part of our lives for 24 years. We have worshiped under the leadership of 9 different pastors and both of our children were married here. The constant has always been the good people of RCLPC, after all, the church is the people. It is with mixed emotions that we tell you our lives are entering a new chapter and we have moved to Cherry Valley near Rockford. Dale has been serving on the COM (committee on ministries) at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rockford so she already knows the pastors, members of session and the PNC (pastor nominating committee) there. We have both attended services there for special events so that will likely be our new church home. But since the church is the people and you are all in our hearts we will still have RCLPC with us no matter where we go.

We will miss you dearly, and will be back to visit from time to time. Our friendships will continue, we just won't be seeing you as often. We wish you all the very best as you continue to do God's work at his beautiful little church in Ridgefield. God's blessing to you all!

With much love,
Wayne and Dale

St. Paul Diaper Bank Benefit Auction

Saturday, September 21
7:00 - 11:00pm

D'Andrea Banquets
4419 Northwest Highway
Crystal Lake, IL

Bountiful Horderves Banquet

Tickets \$75 / person

Buy your tickets
and view Auction items at:

[www.FirstGiving.com/
DiaperBank](http://www.FirstGiving.com/DiaperBank)

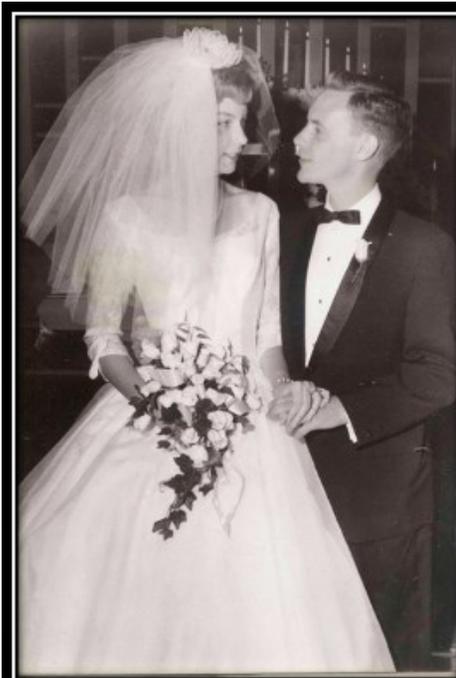
Want to mail your reservation
and check? Send to:

St. Paul Diaper Bank
3706 W. St Paul Ave.
Mchenry, IL 60050
815-385-0390

Oh, and Come Causal!

Olde English Faire October 5-6, 2013

During the first weekend in October, Stronghold transforms itself from a modern retreat and meeting facility to the site of the Olde English Faire. Wandering players perform both onstage and off as crafters and merchants display their wares. Minstrels fill the pathways and stages with melodies while children gather in the Gremlin's Garden for stories and other children's activities. These and many more delights await you at the Olde English Faire!



*Al and Linda Popp
invite you to an
Afternoon Tea
in celebration of their
50th Wedding Anniversary,
1:30 - 4pm
Saturday, September 14, 2013
in Fellowship Hall.*

*Please RSVP
Al or Linda.
If you wish, a gift to
"Build a Dream"
in honor of the occasion,
would be our heart's desire.*

Session Highlights

August 26, 2013

- ◆ Thanks to the Men's Breakfast Group for their leadership of the all-church picnic. Music led by Sherri and the band helped us praise God in our outdoor setting. Excellent food and games were enjoyed by all on a perfect August day.
- ◆ Another word of thanks to Karen Hutchings and her team for organizing the golf outing on August 1. The fundraiser contributed more than \$2600 to the church budget.
- ◆ During the month of September, hail-damaged roofing and siding at RCLPC will be repaired by Jarvis Exteriors of Crystal Lake. Insurance will be covering the cost of repairs, with Jarvis making a donation to the church in the amount of our deductible. At times an entry door may be unavailable, but others will be in use.
- ◆ In September the Stewardship Team will be providing a time and talent survey to the congregation, offering us ways to be ministers in doing God's work.
- ◆ Next year RCLPC will celebrate its 175th birthday. Your suggestions for celebrating this significant event are needed.
- ◆ Watch for information about the Olde English Faire to be held at Blackhawk Presbytery's Stronghold Retreat Center in Oregon, Illinois, on October 5-6.
- ◆ The next Session meeting will be held on September 23 at 7p.

Thanks Goes Out to "Partners in Community Service"

On behalf of the PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) Mission at Ridgefield/Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, I personally wish to thank all of you.

I am guessing that Marie Randall was instrumental in bringing this community service to your attention. She and Bruce Randall have several times made 40 to 45 lunches for a PADS delivery and they will continue to be active in this mission.

It is, however, the consensus of the PCS Members that has made this gift possible and it is appreciated.

Thank you: Lorraine Boehmer, Chris Curtis, Pam DeVoe, Nancy Heitter, Lisa Kelly, Tracy Kieras, Anita Kuetemeyer, Carolyn Mahoney, Marie Randall, and Nancy Simpson.

Most sincerely,
MJ Towne, PADS at RCLPC

RCLPC Gets A Facelift!

Recently RCLPC had wind and hail damage to the church building, and after discussions with our insurance company, we are going to be getting a new roof and vinyl siding. The work should begin in the next couple of weeks and will take about 30 days to complete. And, no, it will not be purple or green siding... it will be white. The best news is that it is all covered by insurance except for our deductible.

Coordinator Needed

Looking for someone who loves shopping on someone else's dime and would be willing to keep the church's kitchen stocked with plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils and other various papergoods as needed. If this "job" is of interest to you, please contact Cynthia Lopuszynski at 815.356.5038.

Native American Connection

The American Indian Center in Chicago will be sponsoring their annual POW-WOW at Busse Woods Forest Preserve at Route 53 and 72 in Schaumburg on September 14-15. If you would like to attend this fun, educational and delicious event, please let Joy Martin know. Some of us who have visited Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations in South Dakota are planning to car pool and would love to have you join us. Joy at joymartin@earthlink.net or at 815-344-2817.

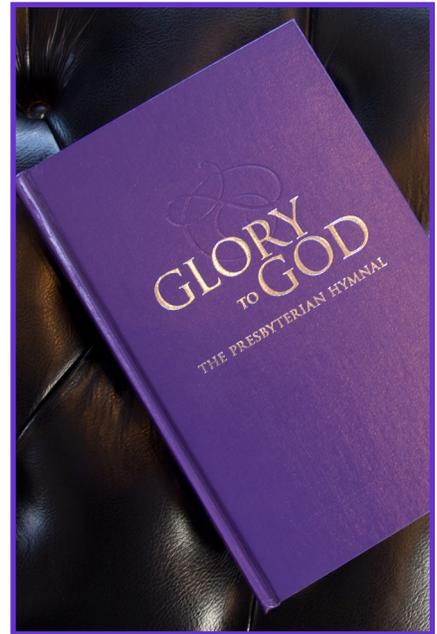
P. S. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Connecting Link. If the weather is bad on Saturday, the 14th, we will plan on going after church on Sunday, the 15th.

You can find information online under The American Indian Center Pow-Wow.

Glory to God

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

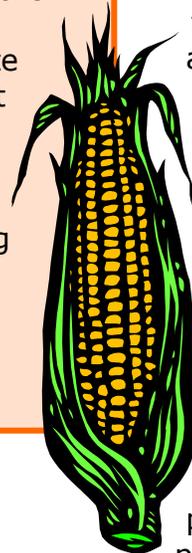
- ◆ More than 800 hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs.
- ◆ Approximately 50% of these will be from the 1990 Hymnal, while the rest will come from older Presbyterian hymnals, other denominational songbooks, and individual authors and composers.
- ◆ A musical setting of almost every Sunday lectionary psalm.
- ◆ 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' will be in the pews on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8th, to purchase the new hymnal 'Glory To God' designating '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

Go Orange! and Feed the Hungry

September is Hunger Action Month and the Northern Illinois Food Bank has highlighted several ways you can take action to serve those less fortunate in our area. My family has been honored in past years to volunteer at the organization's food centers which feed more than 60,000 of our hungry neighbors across 13 counties. Sept. 5th is Go Orange! Day, so please join me in wearing orange to increase awareness of those in need this month. A full list of ways you can help is available at :<http://solvehungertoday.org>.



Amazing Corn Harvest!

The Labor Day corn harvest for all the food pantries in McHenry was amazing! In about four hours we harvested 600 dozen ears of corn. You should have seen MJ Towne and Gloria Thorson packing corn, Rev John and family picking corn (who says he only knows how to pray?) and our birthday boy Dan Schweers spending a few hours of his birthday picking corn for those in need. So many of you brought your wonderful children and thanks to all of you we harvested more corn than I thought possible. We took care of all the pantries and still had some for Carpentersville and Wauconda. We fed most of the people in need in this entire area and did some good for those less fortunate. Your goodness can't be measured.

RCLPC wishes to also thank Nancy Vazzano for organizing this great opportunity and Farmer John of Marengo for his generosity.

Financial Status Report Through July 31, 2013

YTD Revenue	\$199,794
YTD Expenses	\$167,436
YTD Revenue - Expenses	\$ 32,358
Cash Balances*:	
Checking Account	\$ 8,116
Payroll Account:	\$ 10,403
Money Market Accounts:	\$141,691
Capital/Building MM Fund:	\$ 74,086

*Does not reflect checks outstanding

Gun Violence

RCLPC's Compassion, Peace and Justice Team would like to know how you feel our church can help reduce the amount of gun violence. The CPJ Team is already planning some adult education hours themed on preventing gun violence and possibly, a film on the issue. Do you have other ideas? Jot them down and leave your thoughts in the box on the CPJ table in the Connecting Link. Thank you!

Working for Peace and Justice

Check out the display table in Fellowship Hall sponsored by the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team. You'll find an assortment of General Assembly Mission Council materials that show some of the many ways the PC(USA) is working for peace and justice in the world. From Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, to the Office of Public Witness Washington Report, to ideas for sustainable autumn living, you are welcome to help yourself to whatever interests you.

Letter from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

The Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) issued a statement today (August 30) in the wake of the escalating violence in Syria, calling upon U.S. and world leaders to refrain from military action.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

We are deeply concerned about events in Syria. We grieve for our brothers and sisters who have suffered so deeply for so long. We yearn for an end to the bloodshed and renew our call for a cease-fire and a mediated process involving all parties to provide new choices for all Syrians.

We condemn the use of chemical weapons. Regardless of who perpetrated the attack, such a usage violates a longstanding international norm. We recognize the authority and the responsibility of the United Nations Security Council to deal with this violation of international law. We call all nations to encourage the Security Council to address this illegal and immoral act. We do not doubt that justice is needed, but question the unilateral and inevitably selective role the United States has too often played, too often leading to greater violence, terrorism, and instability.

We call upon the President and the members of Congress to follow the example of other strong leaders in the past by exercising the courage and wisdom to refrain from military action that is likely to escalate the conflict further, and to bring our country directly into another war in the Middle East.

We applaud the President's efforts to consult widely, conferring with international leaders and with Congress. Now we ask him to spend time over this holiday weekend listening to what Americans want and fear.

Now is not the time to feed the violence and instability that has claimed the lives of over 100,000 Syrians, driven 3.4 million Syrians from their country, and displaced an additional 6.8 million Syrians from their homes. Most people affected by the conflict are noncombatants. Expanding the conflict will increase the suffering of the innocent.

Now is the time to heed the voices of our church partners who pray and call and work for peace. Our partners look to us to challenge policies of our government that help to fuel conflict in Syria and proxy wars across the Middle East.

Now is the time to reflect on the lessons of 12 years of involvement in conflict in the Middle East by the United States. Limited engagement is never truly limited.

Now is the time to support the peacemakers of Syria who seek to end the violence and build a future. In any Congressional deliberations, we urge that nonviolent forms of intervention be considered, and that next steps beyond military force be grounded in defensible cooperative goals for the region.

Now is the time for all outside parties to cease all forms of intervention in Syria. States and non-state actors must stop feeding the conflict in Syria by sending weapons to the government and to opposition forces. Now is the time to renew the efforts for a diplomatic solution. The United States must work with the United Nations and other governments to contain the violence, restore stability in the region, provide humanitarian assistance, and encourage the building of an inclusive society in Syria that protects the rights of all its citizens.

Now—in the grimmest of situations—is the time to build a coalition of nations and peoples willing to do the long, hard, and essential work of establishing interfaith relationships of respect and understanding. Now—for Syria and all its neighbors—is the time to seek a new vision of cooperation and nonviolence that will support an intervention with the power of impartial justice that will lead to a just and lasting peace.

Now is the time to pray for wisdom for leaders, for courage to turn from violence, for grace to build and nurture relationships, for justice to roll down like waters, and for peace to prevail in Syria. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” For the people of Syria, may it now be a time for peace.

Crystal Lake CROP Walk is Scheduled for Sunday, September 29

Please be a Walker, be a Sponsor, and be a Recruiter. See MJ Towne for packets. More information is available in the Connecting Link.

"...if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noon day." Isaiah 58:11



Movie Night at the RCLPC

Chasing Ice

September 20, 7:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Chasing Ice tells of the acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog's experiences filming the changing glaciers in the Arctic. Using time-lapse cameras, years are compressed into seconds as ancient mountains of ice disappear at a breathtaking rate. Here's a way to "see" climate change in progress. Bring your neighbors, your family, your friends. *Chasing Ice* is one documentary film you won't want to miss. A discussion will follow. Sponsored by the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team.