

The Spirit

August 2015

Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

2nd Corinthians 9 Last year I attended a Stewardship Conference. One of the speakers told of how her daughter and son-in-law just had their first child and a friend told them “now you have to Steward all your time, all your talent and all your resources to raise this new life.” That is a wonderful definition of Stewardship.

We should operate not out of guilt or responsibility, but out of love and thanksgiving. We worship a God of Abundance. God is inviting us to join in celebrating that Abundance. We respond by forming a generosity circle and NOT operating out of scarcity and fear. The Question is not “What can we, as church do/afford/manage?” the questions IS “What is God inviting us to participate in?”

Stewardship in God based questions not a church based questions.

In business and society “good stewardship” is seen as a virtue, meaning to use resources well and not waste. Yet in church it is always misused as “we need your money for the budget”

Stewardship is NOT about raising money! We need to reclaim the word in church; we should not use it as an annual pledge getting word, only mentioned in the Fall Campaign! It is about our daily/weekly life and worship as a congregation. Stewardship is the management of all of life with Jesus in the center; it is about our relationship to God, others and the world.

Church is another word for Community. Worship, teaching ourselves and our children, serving others is about our relationships and being Community. One definition of a Pastor’s role is “to encourage, teach and demonstrate God given community.” Every dollar we spend, every action, every word in church and out either adds or subtracts from community. Our donations to the Food Pantry or Home of the Sparrow, or overseas educational scholarships, staff and building and operating costs are all about building community. What we are doing is helping supply the means by which relationships can be healed and nurtured, it is about putting flesh and bricks and mortar and food and time on to the living Word of God.

So as we enter the fall and start our New Beginnings process and (yes you guessed it) ask for Pledges and support, volunteers and opinions and money.

It is about building community with one another and with God. It is about living by God’s Word and Command in God’s world it is not about “How much can I spare?” or “How much do they need?” Or “Oh no not another meeting.” All understandable reactions but not what Stewardship is really about and not Community building.

So rather than groan at another chore, another obligation, welcome these opportunities to discover where and to what we are being called individually and together by Jesus Christ, Our Lord..

~ Pastor John



Mark Your Calendars
September 13th Kick-Off
Sunday
Education Excitement

Kickoff, just like in a game of football, means to start. September 13 is the start of our new church season, and your opportunity to learn all about the educational offerings planned for the year ahead.

Bibles

Calling all third graders – Now is your chance! During the special WEE Worship time at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services, Matt will hand each of you your very own Bible. Now you can begin learning on your own about God’s love for everyone. The congregation enjoys seeing who has moved up to the third grade. So, tell your families they can attend the service of their choice.

Mission Outreach Hike

Back by popular demand! Once again, we kick-off on our Sunday School journey. Don’t worry, you won’t have to wear a backpack for this hike, just bring yourself. All those from Pre-K through Senior High, and any interested parents, can join in the fun of walking the Ridgefield neighborhood. This is the RCLPC Sunday School’s way of saying “Hello” to the folks in our community by handing out a small gift.

At 10:00, all the kids gather in their classrooms to take attendance and to meet their teachers. Then everyone heads on down to Fellowship Hall to set off on the trek. The walk will take about 20 minutes after which time the snack-stand opens up. Of course, that’s an important part of the whole activity. Besides, now everyone will learn about all the other things planned for this year’s Sunday School adventure.

Adult ED

The coming year has lots of exciting learning experiences in the works. Everyone should plan on dropping by Fellowship Hall at 10:00 for snacks and fellowship. This will give you the opportunity to hear about the new class offerings scheduled during each Sunday’s education hour.



This year’s RCLPC Picnic is going to have a summer camp theme. We will gather around the campfire for worship at 10:00 a.m. near the shelter at the north end of Veteran Acres. This area has its own parking lot off Walkup Avenue and is next to the baseball diamond.

After worship, stay for a traditional cookout (burgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers). If you can, please bring a dish to pass. Meat, rolls, condiments, beverages, paperware and utensils will be provided. Do you have a lawn game such as Bags, Badminton or Darts? Bring them! Or, join in a softball game after the food has been served. What’s your favorite campfire song? Send to Sherri at sherri@rclpc.org And... PLEASE... don’t forget your lawn chair. If weather prohibits being outdoors, we will meet for worship at the church at 10:00 a.m. and have our meal in fellowship hall.



Confirmation 2016

Our current confirmation class is almost done with their journey. On Sunday September 27th, our confirmands will be giving their statements of faith and become official members of RCLPC. Join us on that Sunday to welcome them.

Confirmation in 2016 will look a little different from past years. Confirmation will be a 3 month process that runs from mid-January to mid-April. During that time, confirmands will attend class to learn more about the Christian faith, go on a retreat to Stronghold, meet with a mentor, and other projects. The reason for this change is to make confirmation more manageable for students and parents. We also feel that the current year long confirmation model has a high risk of burnout or the feeling that the end of confirmation is graduation from the church. The three month process will hopefully support the idea that confirmation is another step in a faith journey that spans for one's entire life. If you have any questions about confirmation please contact Matthew Brown or Al Popp.



A few small notes...

Summer Sunday School

The last day for Summer Sunday school will be this Sunday August 16th. We will resume on kick off Sunday, September 13th.



Sunday Sundaes

We only have a couple more weeks of Sunday Sundaes. Our last meeting at The Freeze on Route 14 from 7:00-8:00 pm will be on August 23rd. Hope to see you there!

Youth Group meetings

Youth, 6th-12th grades, will start Sunday evening meetings again on September 13th, 7:00-8:30. Hope to see you all there!

South Dakota Mission Trip Presentation

On Sunday August 23rd at 10am in the Fellowship Hall, our high school students will be presenting their mission trip experience. Come hear about the work we did, the people we met, and the impact it had on the students. Hope to see you there!



RCLPC Theater Raises Over \$3300

For Mission!

On behalf of the entire cast, crew and staff of RCLPC Theater's production of *You Can't Take It With You*, Amy and I would like to thank the congregation of RCLPC for their support, encouragement, hard-work and/or tolerance of our wildly

successful endeavor! Although the Fellowship Hall was transformed into a working theater for most of the summer, we were able to accommodate other events there including memorial socials and VBS. We raised over \$3300 for mission, paid the actors and crew, rented professional lighting and sound equipment and still were able to pay the church over \$400 to help with additional electrical usage, etc. We couldn't have done it without such wonderful, dedicated and hard-working church members in the kitchen, backstage, off-stage and on!

If you'd like to see us do a production again next summer, let us know!

- Steve Connell



Food Distribution

Thanks to the folks of RCLPC for sharing their time, treasure, and talents with our hungry neighbors. On August 5th, teams directed guests where to park, offered hospitality in Fellowship Hall, and sorted, bagged, and loaded the produce into vehicles. Each guest received a note explaining that we chose local foods because they grow nearby, support the local economy, and connect us to the people who grow our food.



About 70 families, individuals, and homebound seniors received bountiful fresh vegetables and locally produced cheese provided at reduced prices by Von Bergen's Country Market in Hebron and Prairie Pure Cheese in Marengo. Please share a personal word of thanks if you purchase products from either. Also, a special thanks to County Donuts in Crystal Lake for providing donuts to volunteers and food truck clients. ~ Mission Team

Green Living Tips

Check out these timely tips on the church website, rclpc.org, under the Earth Care Team button:

- More Bicycles, Please - And Safe Roads, Too
- Lawn Care
- Resealing Your Driveway
- A/C tips to reduce costs and use



The Building and Grounds Team has three projects to be completed at church, and the team could use your help.

1. Last winter a paving brick heaved up to block the front door of the church. To prevent this in the future, the bricks need to be taken up to see what structurally can be done. Then we'll make the decision as to what to do next which could mean concrete work.
2. The ductwork in the crawl space below the office area is uninsulated and should be insulated to save on both heating and cooling energy costs.
3. There are two dead trees in the back parking lot that need to come down. These trees are structurally sound and are not in danger of falling down, but they should be removed.

If you can help on any or all of these projects, please contact Lou Rabe or Bob Grecco.



NEW RCLPC SPIRIT DEADLINE!

As we head into a new program year, the deadline for RCLPC Spirit articles will be the last Friday of the month (example: *deadline for the SEPTEMBER Spirit will be AUGUST 28th*). This new deadline schedule will allow for the Spirit to come out earlier each month, rather than mid-month. For a list of the new monthly deadlines, or any questions, please contact Jenny at office@rclpc.org, or 815-459-1132.



Dancing for
Diapers!
Saturday
October 24,
2015

Save the date for this fantastic gala benefiting the Diaper Bank of Northern IL. For more information, visit www.DiaperBankNI.org

MEET YOUR DEACON RON BRANDT

Jan and I have lived in Del Web Huntley for the past five years, and two years later became members of RCLPC. I was born in Nebraska during the worst of times . . . the great depression, the great drought, and soon after World War II. At age six we moved to a farm in Iowa where I attended (with fifteen other children) a one-room school with outdoor facilities. In that school I had the same teacher for grades one through eight. We got to know each other very well; in fact, she knew what I was going to do before I did (I am sure). In high school I enjoyed sports, plays, and being in local 4-H Club.

In growing up on a farm, I enjoyed driving tractors, building tunnels with bales of hay in the hay mound, riding my horse, lots of hunting, sleigh riding, and doing chores or field work. Each spring my parents bought one hundred extra chickens to supply us with food for the year. To this day my favorite meal is fried chicken with milk gravy. My favorite meal to eat out is breakfast.

Through prayer the Lord led me to a career of serving others, so I attended a Lutheran University to be a teacher. In graduating, I received a call to St. Paul Lutheran School in Mt. Prospect, IL. After five years I was asked to be the principal and I served for six years, and then I transferred to Barrington Public Schools for another 29 years.

I always felt God called me to serve Him in this way — first children and then adults as He commanded. Serving others through my job and then through many organizations has always been very rewarding to me.

In my spare time, I like to play golf, travel, and attend musicals at the Marriott Theater or the Elgin Symphony. In golf, I am waiting and waiting to shoot my age or get a hole-in-one. I have been blessed with many wonderful travel experiences both for pleasure and evaluating overseas schools for the Department of Defense.

I hope to be remembered for making a positive difference in the lives of others, including my own family, and as one who believed in God as creator and His Son Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Ron's Deacon family group includes:

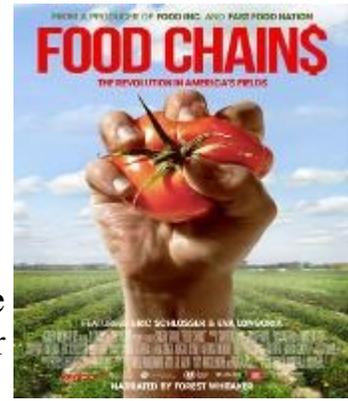
Laura Beamer, Steve & Kristi Geggie, Curt & Gail Peterson
Erik & Julie Ekstrom, Bob & Laurie Jensen, Al & Linda Popp,
Lee & Paula Ekstrom, Gil & Kim Kerkbashian, Mike & Cindee Robinson,
Jill Freund, Pete & Nancy Koenig, Gary & Karen Salman,
Roger & Linda Freund, Todd & Karla Koenig, Jim & Susan Zacher, Cy Zank

Come share a meal of local food with us!

Farm-to-Fork Lunch

Sunday, September 20, 12 Noon

You are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall at noon on September 20th to dine on specially prepared foods with the freshest ingredients from local farms and purveyors. Come for lunch to enjoy our local bounty and support our local agriculture!



Following lunch, you are welcome to stay to view the new documentary, Food Chains, that focuses on the tomato pickers of southern Florida who are changing farm labor. Their story is one of hope and promise for a more dignified life and a more humane food chain.

~ Sponsored by Earth Care and CPJ Teams

A Moral Response to Climate Change

Sunday, August 30, 12 Noon–2:00 pm

OR

Thursday, September 3, 6:30–8:00pm

Where:

Resurrection Catholic Church
2918 S. Country Club Road
Woodstock, Illinois 60098



No cost; all are welcome – lunch provided on Sunday
Please call 815-338-7330 to register.

Where does your faith call you to be, on the protection and sustainability of God's creation? The Vatican released Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology, *Laudato Si (Praised Be)* on June 18th .

A Moral Response to Climate Change is a presentation of moral/social teachings with references to Pope Francis's encyclical, the science documenting climate change, and the impact it has had on our planet and its people. The presenter, Steve Coleman, is a lay Catholic educator who has spent several years studying environmental science, climate change, and teachings on the care of creation. He will discuss solutions on how we can all put our faith into action by becoming better stewards of God's creation Earth, our common home.

~ Earth Care Team

Follow up:

Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia

In early June, we received a letter from Congressman Randy Hultgren. It is his response to a letter a number of you signed in May during Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia in which we asked him to support the peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the rebel group, the FARC, now taking place in Cuba. The complete text of the letter is posted in the Connecting Link.



Presbyterian Outlook magazine report: Presbyterian World Mission Faces Potential Funding Shortfall in 2016&2017

An April, 2015 article in the Presbyterian Outlook reports that the “Presbyterian Mission Agency is facing a significant financial challenge for 2016 and 2017...by 2017, the result could be a recall of 25 percent of mission workers currently in service around the world.”

“Presbyterian missionaries have planted churches, built hospitals and started schools on every continent...Our mission workers and global partners are counting on this support in order to continue in partnership together in God’s mission.”

(Full text posted in Connecting Link)

SUPPORT A MISSION

CO-WORKER

Do you have a favorite country or region of the world? If so, consider supporting a PC(USA) mission co-worker in that country. You can search by country at presbyterianmission.org and by clicking on World Mission at the top of the page and then scrolling down to **Empower and Support World Mission** □ Why support World Mission - Giving opportunities catalog - Mission worker prayer cards - Make the P.L.E.D.G.E., or you can use the printed catalogs on the Compassion, Peace and Justice table in the Connecting Link.

There are a number of advantages to sponsoring a specific worker:

You can communicate directly with the worker through e-mail or a Skype call.

You and your family can learn more about the region where your worker serves.

You can visit the co-worker to learn first hand about her/his ministries.

You can learn what the Presbyterian Church is doing around the world.

If you cannot give money, then please pray daily for mission co-workers, our global partners, and the people they serve.

Compassion, Peace and Justice

Want to get involved? The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team is always open to new members and new ideas! The Team advocates for justice in various areas of life and for peaceful solutions to conflict. Many in the congregation only see CPJ's work through the themed tables in Fellowship Hall; these displays of social justice issues change monthly and indicate the broad range of activities the team engages in. But besides the displays, the team's activities also include adult and youth education, letter-writing campaigns, and various individual events.

The Team meets every other month and would welcome your participation! If interested, or if you have questions, contact Mike Rugh or leave a note in the church office.

CPJ also circulates "Action Alerts" from PCUSA's Office of Public Witness. These Alerts are opportunities for you to voice your views on social justice issues (usually upcoming legislation) to our elected representatives. If you are interested in being added to our mailing list, contact Ann Legg.

Session Highlights

July 27, 2015

- Rev. John Dillon Moderator.
- Approved Session Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2015.
- Discussed Disaster Planning Training provided by Joy Medrano from Lutheran Social Services. RCLPC Disaster Planning team is being formed.
- Approved Lori Thompson and Steve Connell as voting elders at Blackhawk Presbytery Meetings.
- Reviewed the June 2015 Year to Date financial report.
- Discussed New Beginnings Vision planning process.
- August 13th – Assessment Session at RCLPC – Pastor John sending letter to congregation explaining process.
- September 18th & 19th – Cluster leaders training at Westminster Presbyterian Church, DeKalb.
- Concurred Pastor John's vacation August 9th through August 22nd. Pulpit supply is Rev. Phyllis Mueller August 9th and 16th.
- Approved Position Description with changes for Assistant Treasurer.
- Approved Pat Kay as Assistant Treasurer.
- Approved Behavior Covenant to be signed by Session Elders and Deacons.
- Discussed fall Stewardship approach and worship focus on joyful praise of offering.
- Discussed Crystal Lake Food Pantry Strategic Plan. Did not approve the requested motions from Strategic Team. A letter to be sent to Food Pantry Board covering RCLPC concerns.
- Next meeting August 24, 2015.