

The Spirit

February 2015

Of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church



Wednesday, February 18th,
7:00 p.m. service

Hope College Symphonette Concert

The Hope College
Symphonette is
coming to RCLPC!



Join us Friday March 13th at 7pm for this FREE concert. We do need people to house students for the night so if you would be willing please sign up in the Connecting Link. Invite your friends to join us for an evening of wonderful music.

DEACONS?

Our church has 12 Deacons, but not everyone is sure exactly what the functions of a Deacon might be. First and foremost, a Deacon is to provide an active ministry of service, prayer, sympathy and witness. To do this, Deacons reach out and respond to individuals, their joys and concerns, especially the families and individuals that are assigned to their Deacon group. The Deacons also strengthen the bond of Christian community within this congregation, both by being a visible presence at church activities and also to encourage communication, fellowship, and sharing amongst our members. Deacons share our member information with the pastor and extend care to those who are in need.

So, do you know who is YOUR Deacon?

To help you with this question, we will be introducing you to each of our Deacons over the next few months so you can better know who they are and help them be the best Deacon they can be.



Walkin' to Jerusalem:

A Virtual Pilgrimage from Crystal Lake, IL to Jerusalem!

Do you participate in an exercise class? Are you part of a sports team?
Do you walk to keep fit?

During the 6 weeks of Lent, let's tally up all those steps, week by week, and track our Lenten journey from Crystal Lake, IL to Jerusalem. We'll use a map, located in the connecting link, to track our journey of 6,190 miles. That means we've got to average more than 1000 miles per week.

Who can participate? ALL OF US. There will be a sign up sheet next to our map, where we'll post the number of miles we walk, per week, and chart our progress.

Sign up as individuals, family teams, bible study groups, exercise groups—the possibilities are endless. Track your steps as you progress through your daily routines. Many of you own fit bits, or own cell phones with the capability of tracking steps. We'll have a limited number of pedometers available for those who need them.

2,000 steps = 1 mile

30 minutes of exercise (team sports, yoga, swimming, etc) = 2 miles

It's estimated that Jesus walked 24,000 miles, during his 3 year ministry on earth. Come on RCLPC! We can knock out 6,190 miles in 6 weeks, if we all work together. Jerusalem, here we come!

Mission Trip Fundraiser

Our high school youth group will be hosting a trivia night on Saturday March 14th from 7-10pm. Funds will go towards our upcoming mission trip to South Dakota.

Gather your team of 6-8 people and join us for a night of trivia fun. Winning team gets \$200. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up forms are in the Connecting Link. Return forms to the red folder in the Connecting Link or give them to Matthew Brown. If you have any questions please contact Matthew Brown (815) 219-9796 or matthew@rclpc.org. Hope to see you there!



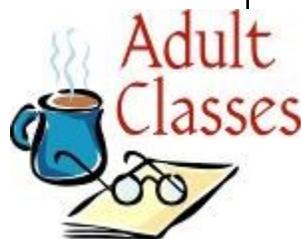


Easter Flower Orders!

We will begin collecting orders for Easter flowers this week.

Please complete an order form (found in your bulletin or office) and place in the offering plate or return to office.

New Class presented by **Journeycare/Hospice** at the 10:00 adult ed time; join us in the lounge.



February 15:

Ethical decisions, effective communications and listening skills

February 22:

Financial planning for end-of-life, estate planning, Columbarium and the JC Button Endowment at RCLPC

Coffee and Cookies

Sign up!

Please take a look at the sign up sheet for fellowship hour coffee and cookies, located in Fellowship Hall. Plenty of spots available to make a lot of people happy on Sunday morning!



Coffee Fellowship

Lenten Season Worship Schedule:



- Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm
- March 29 – Palm Sunday Services at 9 & 11 am
- Holy Week**
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday Meal/Worship at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
- April 3 – Good Friday Service at 7 pm
- April 5 – Easter Sunday Services at 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 & 11:15 am

DON'T

FORGET

March Spirit articles due by March 6th!

A Year at RCLPC in the Eyes of the Youth

“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3.18-19.

Imagine for a moment that you are a kid again. You are back in school, basically care free and innocent. Certain facts and truths have not yet penetrated your brain. You are oblivious to much of the sadness and worry and angst of adulthood. Your identity is sponge like, constantly changing shape and absorbing new qualities.

Belonging to an American protestant family, you have just moved to the Chicago suburbs and are searching for a church to join. Naturally, Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church is considered. On the first visit, you walk through the doors of RCLPC and are greeted by many people; it is so many that make a point to say hello that all the faces start to blur together (but don't fret, you will get to know people). Your family purposely arrived early and there is still a service going on in the sanctuary, which you soon realize is upstairs. You can tell this because there is dreamy music flowing down the stairs and into your ears. Walking around, you notice how everyone seems to be far beyond acquaintances with everyone else. Someone starts a conversation with your parents, and you just wait and listen and observe until you are introduced.

After the service, you can't help but remember the music the most. It caught your attention. The other stuff, the sermon and the prayers, all seemed nice but since you are young, focusing, let alone comprehending, for that long is not only difficult but seemingly pointless as you probably won't understand it anyways (this, too, will change as you get older, and you will hear and understand more and more of the depth of religion). The music, though, stays in your head the rest of the Sunday and possibly into the week.

Your parents decide RCLPC is a good fit for your family, so you keep coming back. The year progresses. You attend all of Lent and the Holy Week services. You are particularly fond of the Maundy Thursday service. The food was delicious and the way that *everyone* was so easy to talk made an impact.

Easter Sunday made you smile...you couldn't help it. Pancakes, flowers, and so many happy people combined with a hallelujah chorus that left you speechless made for the best church experience ever. Flash forward a few months. You have started to regularly attend the middle school Sunday school class. You are getting to know your fellow youth and realize they are there for the fun just as much as you are. And that class is fun. Besides amusement, candy and knowledge also come out of this Sunday school class. You never realized how much candy you could eat or how much you didn't know and/or understand about Christianity before this. Thankfully, answers to questions are also part of the package.

Advent creeps up on you and you are now excited to see what Christmas is like at this church. Your family goes to the latest Christmas Eve service. The music, unsurprisingly, leaves you awestruck. The candlelit *Silent Night* leaves you feeling peaceful.

After a year at RCLPC, you feel a variety of emotions. Happiness, because of the fun it brought. Confusion because the whole religion part of it sometimes makes perfect sense and sometimes makes zero sense. Frustration because you are confused and relief because you can keep coming back to try and solve your confusion. Finally, you feel peace, because even though waking up and going to church on Sundays is not always your first choice, you know that there is always a church community there for you.

Alex Sowa

REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Nominating Committee requests candidate recommendations from the congregation for Elder, Deacon, Auditor, Endowment Group and Nominating Committee. All nominees will serve a term of three years for the class of 2018. Each congregation member may submit a maximum of three names for open positions. We do not tally these names as votes, but only gather to establish a list of possible nominees. Your committee will consider these recommendations, along with committee member recommendations during the candidate selection process.

Ruling Elder (Session) ministry requires persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated leadership skills and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling Elders are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. They exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. Members of Session serve one of the following teams: Administration, Education, Worship, Stewardship, Community Outreach, Finance. One member acts as a liaison to the Deacon Mission Team.

Deacon ministry as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. Deacons serve on either the congregational care team (welcoming, caring, and fellowship) or the mission team. All Deacons lead a family group.

Nominating Committee ministry consists of two ruling elders, who are appointed by Session, 1 active Deacon elected by the Deacon Board, and four members at-large elected by the Congregation. The Nominating Committee selects candidates for the positions of Elder, Deacon, Nominating Committee, Audit Committee, and Endowment Group. Also, when required the Nominating Committee will select candidates for a pastoral search committee.

Audit Committee ministry annually conducts an audit of the Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church's financial funds, records and reports, and the insurance policies. Every three years the Audit Committee conducts an audit of the church's legal records: By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, and others.

Endowment Group ministry administers the J.C. Button Endowment Foundation. This Foundation, created by the RCLPC Session, provides members and friends of the church the opportunity to make charitable contributions for the long-term financial support of the church, its programs, ministries, and as a living memorial. Responsibilities include: accepting gifts in accordance with the J.C. Button Endowment Foundation, investing assets, making financial reports, marketing the foundation and providing educational opportunities to the congregation regarding the value of estate planning and wills. Please prayerfully consider whom you might recommend for these positions.

Please e-mail any suggestions by Sunday February 22, 2015, to:

Al Popp, moderator of the 2015 Nominating committee, at skip3917@sbcglobal.net (815)-459-6274.

Or, Pam Palmer at ppalmer@p2consult.com.

Eat, Play, Give!

Each Performance: A Different Charity!



RCLPC presents:

**You Can't
Take It
With You!**

www.rclpctheater.com

July 24 -
Aug 2, 2015

8505
Church St.
Ridgefield,
IL

708-267-
2572

For Dinner Theater show times, visit the website or call.

Adult \$30

Senior (60+) or Student \$25 / Child (under 6) \$10

A Wacky, All-American Comedy: Fireworks, Taxes... and Apple Pie, of course!

COMING THIS SUMMER TO A THEATER (Fellowship Hall!) NEAR YOU:

It's all about "Fun, Funds, and Fellowship"!

Dinner theater, AS EASY AS 1-2-3:

Come see it!

We would love to have at least 60 in the audience for each of the 6 performances.

Visit our website at www.rclpctheater.com

Help in the kitchen!

The church members (group?) who decide to prepare a meal will also determine which mission project gets the proceeds from that meal.

Join the group!

We need help in casting, building the set, publicizing, running the show, etc. Although this will be a professional production, we can't afford put on a show without many generous volunteers!

Session Highlights

January 19, 2015

- Welcomed Rev. Phyllis Mueller as the meeting's moderator
- Approved Session Meeting Minutes from December 22, 2014
- Approved Rev. Tony Saavedra to officiate the wedding of Alex Nelson and Samantha Walwix on February 28, 2015 in the RCLPC sanctuary.
- Approved the Clerk's 2014 Annual Report to Presbytery and General Assembly
- Reviewed Presbytery Sabbatical Leave Policy for Churches, Minimum Wage for Clergy and 9 amendments all up for approval at the February 10th Blackhawk Presbytery meeting which is in alignment with RCLPC practice.
- Reviewed the 2014 Year to Date financial report – 2014 Income: \$348,102.58; Expenses: \$327,803; Income less expenses: \$20,298.81
- Approved the 2015 RCLPC. Income: \$327,884; Expenses: \$362,91; Deficit: \$35,027
- Approved Lent services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services (8, 9, 10:15 & 11:15 am)
- Reviewed and voted to refer Pastor 2015 Terms of Call for approval at January 25th Congregation Meeting
- Reviewed upcoming Christian Education programs
- Comments collected on Proposed RCLPC Brochure
- Approved Fundraiser for Men's Group Pancake Breakfast Easter Sunday.
- Approved to forgo Rummage Sale Fundraiser for 2015 but to look for alternative fundraiser(s).
- Approved to refer RCLPC Annual Report for congregation approval at January 25th Congregation Meeting
- Approved agenda for January 25th Congregation Meeting
- Next meeting February 23, 2015.